■ SAT SPECIAL / A3-1

3 must-see films for the soul: 'Maximo Oliveros,' 'Just like Heaven,' 'Merry Christmas'

■ NEWS / A2

'Pirma' JDV's secret weapon in 'relentless' pursuit of Cha-cha

■ BUSINESS / B1

SMC, Campos, Lorenzos foil First Pacific's takeover bid for Del Monte

■ SUPER / C1

Kostas Seremetis, Maharishi, RoStarr and Designers Republic

Solons appalled RP's grade schoolers can't even read

By Philip C. Tubeza and Alcuin Papa

PROVIDING YET ANOTHER DEPRESSING statistic on the appalling state of public education in the country, the Department of Education has reported to Congress that fully 75 percent of elementary school graduates "cannot

SOLONS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

With barbed wire gone, Palace a fortress no more

By Christine O. Avendaño and Margaux C. Ortiz

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK a lot like Christmas.

Malacañang has removed the container vans and barbed wire barriers

WITH BARBED/ A22

PWEDE NA KAYA MAMASKO?

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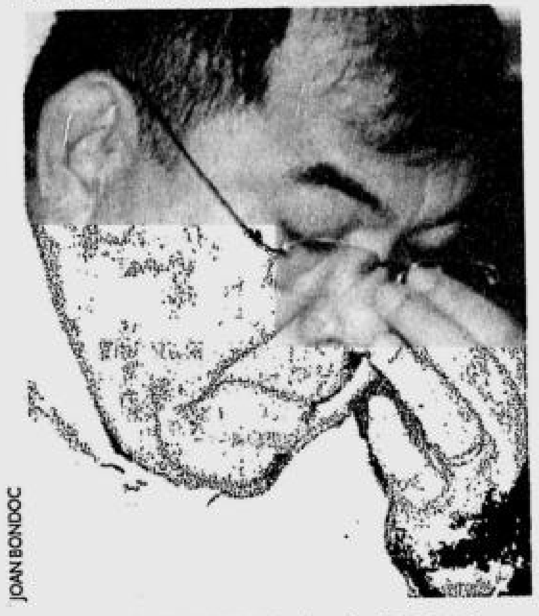


JOAN BONDOC

END OF THE ROAD for (retired) Brig. Gen. Carlos Garcia for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Military court convicts Garcia

By Dona Pazzibugan

IN AN APPARENT WARNING TO OFFICERS suspected of enriching themselves, a military court yesterday convicted retired Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia of undeclared wealth, dishonorably dismissed him from the military and sentenced him to two years of hard labor.

The 57-year-old former Armed Forces of the Philippines comptroller thus became the highest officer convicted by a general court-martial.

Wearing a *barong* Tagalog with the sleeves rolled up, Garcia stood before the six-member military tribunal as Marine Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, court president, handed down its verdict at 3 p.m., humbling a man once avidly sought by military contractors here and abroad.

Hard labor means that Garcia would be given "fatigue work" by his custodian, military defense lawyer Lt. Col. Antonio Doronila said in an interview.

Doronila did not specify what "fatigue work" Garcia would be performing while in detention, saying only: "You would do whatever work is there. Hard labor is not like you're going to break boulders. That's cruel."

Garcia was found guilty of violating Articles of War 96 and 97 for not declaring his true assets and for being a "green card" holder or having a permanent resident status in the United States.

"Of course, this is a warning" to others, Doronila said.

The case stemmed from allegations Garcia illegally amassed wealth while he was deputy chief of staff for comptrollership (J-6) of the AFP, a position that was later abolished due to the controversy.

The office, perceived for a long time as a major source of corruption, was in charge of deals with suppliers and contractors for a wide range of military needs, from soldiers' uniforms and boots, to equipment and big construction projects.

Garcia is being separately tried for plunder and perjury by the Sandiganbayan. The Ombudsman has filed a forfeiture case against Garcia and his family to collect more than P345 million of their alleged assets.

The court-martial upheld charges that Garcia did not declare in his statement of assets and liabilities for 2002 and 2003 his P6.5 million cash deposits and P5.8 million dividends from the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc. (AFP-SLAI) and six vehicles in his wife

MILITARY/ A21

Thai exec insists RP cheats

Gov't spokesman in Bangkok says TV replays show judging errors

BANGKOK—RATHER THAN APOLOGIZE AS demanded by Philippine lawmakers and sports officials, Thailand insisted yesterday there were "serious problems" with judging in the Southeast Asian Games and vowed to do a better job when it hosts the event in 2007.

Surapong Suebwonglee, the chief government spokesperson in Bangkok, said many Thais were surprised at the judging as they watched the region's version of the Olympics on television.

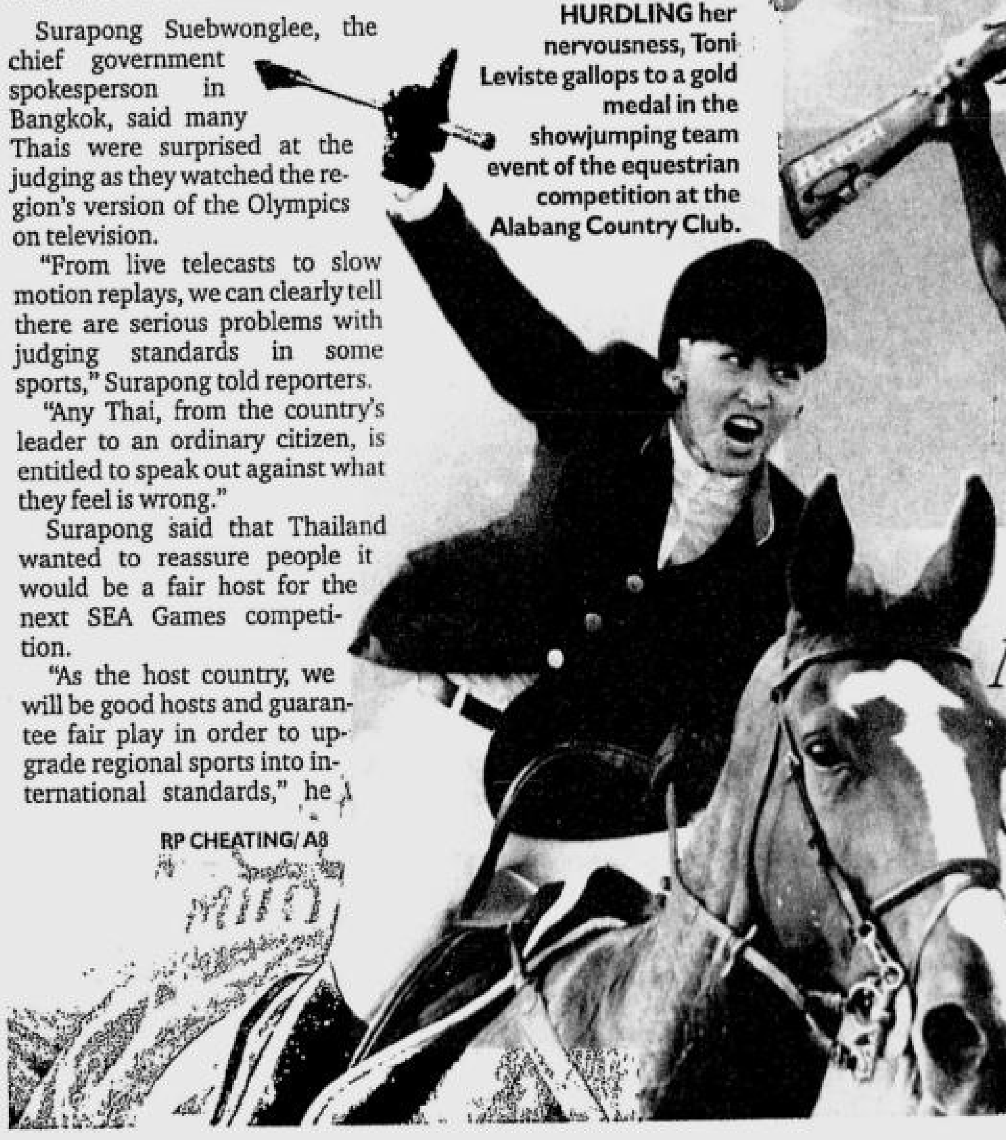
"From live telecasts to slow motion replays, we can clearly tell there are serious problems with judging standards in some sports," Surapong told reporters.

"Any Thai, from the country's leader to an ordinary citizen, is entitled to speak out against what they feel is wrong."

Surapong said that Thailand wanted to reassure people it would be a fair host for the next SEA Games competition.

"As the host country, we will be good hosts and guarantee fair play in order to upgrade regional sports into international standards," he

RP CHEATING/ A8



HURDLING her nervousness, Toni Leviste gallops to a gold medal in the showjumping team event of the equestrian competition at the Alabang Country Club.

CHITO VECINA

EGAY MONTANO

TOP GUNS (from left) Patricio Bernardo, Paul Brian Rosario and Darius Hizon had been aiming for the gold, and hit it, in the skeet shooting competition at the Philippine National Shooting Association clay target range in Muntinlupa City.

Molina wins 3rd swim gold; RP retains lead

By Roy Luarca

MIGUEL MOLINA STILL FEELS the water in the Trace Aquatics Center pool is too warm for him. But he's no longer complaining.

After all, the spring-fed pool has given Molina, used to cooler waters back in the United States, three gold medals, including his Philippine-record breaking victory in the 200-meter breaststroke yesterday in the swimming competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The 21-year-old Molina, a mainstay of the University of California-Berkeley NCAA Division I team, clocked 2 minutes and 16.88 seconds to eclipse the 2:18.71 he swam in this year's World Championships in Montreal and rev up the Philippine campaign on Day 6 of the biennial meet.

With the golds trickling in from various

MOLINA/ A8

Games sked today in Sports, Page A30

Truce declared on the battlefront

Story on Page A21

Defensor blinks, recalls Enrile's logging permit

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau
and TJ Burgonio
in Manila

PALO, LEYTE—THE WAY THE bishops tell it, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor blinked.

Sitting in a tense 2-hour dialogue yesterday morning with seven Catholic bishops determined to protect the rich biodiversity of Samar, Defensor reportedly bowed to their demand and said his agency would not allow the resumption of logging on the island.

In exchange, the bishops of Samar, Leyte and Biliran called off the antilogging and antimining caravan-rally scheduled in Samar on Monday as well as their plan to gather 200,000 signatures for a petition to President Macapagal-Arroyo seeking the cancellation of the logging permit for Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's timber firm.

"The honorable secretary has given a promise that he personally and all of his staff and the whole [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] are willing [to] commit themselves [to] that the operation of San Jose Timber [Corp.] in Samar will not continue," Bishop Leonardo Medroso of the Diocese of Borongan (Eastern Samar) announced in a press conference held after the closed-door dialogue.

The press conference was held in the same venue as the dialogue—on the second floor of the Palo Archdiocesan chancery in the compound of the Sacred Heart

DEFENSOR/ A6

Radioman slain in Cebu, 10th this year

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Yet another journalist bit the dust yesterday—the third killed in the last two weeks and the 10th this year.

George Benaojan, 27, a senior staff reporter of dyDD Bantay Radyo, was shot in the mouth, neck, chest and right leg by a lone gunman on Thursday at 9:30 p.m. He died at the Chong Hua Hospital here almost three hours later.

Doctors said the bullet that entered his mouth exited through his neck, damaging a major artery.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) expressed outrage at the murder of Benaojan, an officer of the Malacañang sa Sugbo press corps.

The NUJP said he was the 36th journalist slain since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001, making her administration the worst in the country's history as far as the killing of journalists was concerned.

Benaojan was shot in his general merchandise store at the South Central Market, a privately owned mini-mall, in Barangay Lawaan 3, Talisay City, 12 kilometers south of Cebu City.

A stray bullet also hit Ma. Rizzi Cabil, 18, in the chest.

Witnesses said the gunman fled on foot and then boarded a

RADIOMAN/ A6

RP inventor wins gold for anti-cancer cream

By Christian V. Esguerra

A CREAM LOCALLY PROVEN TO work against the most common type of skin cancer won a gold medal for a Filipino scientist at the prestigious International Inventor's Forum in Nuremberg, Germany, early in November.

Scientist Rolando de la Cruz bested 54 other inventors worldwide when his "DeBCC" cream, developed from cashew nuts and other local herbs, was chosen over 1,500 entries as the "most significant invention" of the year.

Speaking at a press conference arranged by the Department of Science and Technology yesterday, the 68-year-old inventor said the cream was a simple answer to basal cell carcinoma (BCC), the most common type of skin cancer worldwide.

BCC affects around 800,000 Americans every year, according to the Skin Care Foundation website.

BCC also affects 500,000 Europeans and 190,000 Australians every year, De la Cruz's RCC Amazing Touch company said in a statement.

Dr. Eric Talens, who did the first clinical trials of DeBCC, yesterday said this type of skin can-

RP INVENTOR/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have cloudy skies with rainshowers. Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Eastern Visayas. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/12/03/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Pirma is JDV's 'secret weapon'

By Nikko Dizon and Juliet Labog-Javellana

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA, DESCRIBING HIMself as "relentless" in his advocacies like Charter change, yesterday did not discount the possibility of having a people's initiative to push for Constitutional reforms.

"The people's initiative would be crucial, especially if there's a continuing deadlock between the House and the Senate," De Venecia told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before leaving for Saudi Arabia where he was to meet with King Abdullah.

The INQUIRER reported the other day a people's initiative may just be the Arroyo administration's ticket to amending the 1987 Constitution if the Senate continued to oppose Cha-cha.

A people's initiative is the third mode for making changes to the Charter as prescribed in the Constitution. The other modes are a constitutional convention, whose members are elected, and a constituent assembly, whose members are the incumbent congressmen and senators.

A people's initiative is reportedly De Venecia's "secret weapon," the "last resort," if the Senate rejects House Concurrent Resolution 26 which seeks to turn both house of Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

De Venecia said local government units and major political parties would promote a people's initiative and referendum.

"That could begin in mid-December up to mid-January (next year). That could be completed in mid-January or the end of January. That is the timetable of the local government units and the major political parties," he said.

De Venecia urged the Senate to work with the lower house on Cha-cha instead of rejecting it outright.

"There's nothing to fear. All we're asking from them is to debate it with us. We're not asking them to vote with us, they can vote against us if they so choose. We can debate it before the blazing searchlight of public scrutiny, before the bar of public opinion. What's wrong with that?" De Venecia said.

But for some senators, "leave the people's initiative to the people" was their reaction, among them administration Sen. Ralph Recto who was reported by the INQUIRER yesterday to have been told by President Arroyo that House leaders were planning to resort to a people's initiative to amend the Constitution if the Senate rejected Charter change.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said Malacañang and the House should give Cha-cha a rest because it was a "dead initiative."

Another senator had told the INQUIRER that Ms Arroyo had broached the possibility of having a people's initiative to change the Constitution to Recto during a recent dinner.

While he did not comment on his dinner conversation with the President, Recto issued a statement on the "fallback option" of tapping private and civic groups to petition revisions to the Charter.

"It ain't a people's initiative if politicians are behind it," Recto said.

"It shouldn't be subjected to either administration or opposition manipulation. If there's a grassroots clamor for Charter change, it must be in its purest form and unadulterated by any politician's agenda, " he said.

The people—through the signatures of at least 10 percent of all registered voters in the country and at least three percent of voters in each congressional district—could directly petition Charter amendments.

The Ramos administration had tried to get Cha-cha rolling with a "pirma" (signature) initiative but this was denied by the Supreme Court because there was no enabling law from Congress.

"If a verified petition meeting the minimum quota would knock on the doors of Congress, how can lawmakers reject the voice of the people?" Recto said.

"The resolution must have its day in the Senate. It must be fully debated. This is a form of parliamentary courtesy that should be extended to our colleagues in the other chamber," he said.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, said Charter change would not succeed unless the credibility of the electoral process was first restored.

"That is why one of my conditions sine qua non is to first fix the electoral process because any move will be questioned because of the frailty and lack of credibility of our elections," Gordon said.

House not keen on giving Garci immunity

By Michael Lim Ubac

ADMINISTRATION LAWMAKERS YESTERday rejected a proposal to grant former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano immunity from criminal prosecution when he appears on Wednesday before a joint House inquiry into the wiretapping scandal.

Representatives Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur) and Federico Sandoval II (LP, Malabon-Navotas), both members of the joint House committee, said it was enough that lawmakers gave Garcillano the "benefit of the doubt" and let him keep his word to tell the truth on his alleged wiretapped conversations with President Macapagal-Arroyo that suggested cheating in the May 2004 elections.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, President Arroyo's staunchest ally in the Senate, suggested Thursday that Congress grant immunity to the man credited by the opposition with ensuring the President's election victory.

"I think the best way to solve this mess is to offer him, in effect, the status of a state witness... immunity from prosecution for what he says. That way, we can make sure he will be telling us the whole truth," said Santiago, adding: "If he's the sole source of the truth we have to strike a bargain with the devil."

But Cagas, the House contingent head to the Senate Electoral Tribunal, disagreed, saying that even without immunity Garcillano should "disclose everything to clear his name of allegations he had moved to rig the results of last year's election."

"His intention to surface to help put closure to the 'Hello Garci' tapes issue reveals his determination to be truthful in his upcoming testimony. Besides, lawmakers are discerning enough to be able to get the whole truth out of him in the course of questioning him," said Cagas.

Sandoval, vice chair of the House committee on appropriations, said Santiago's immunity proposal was "unnecessary."

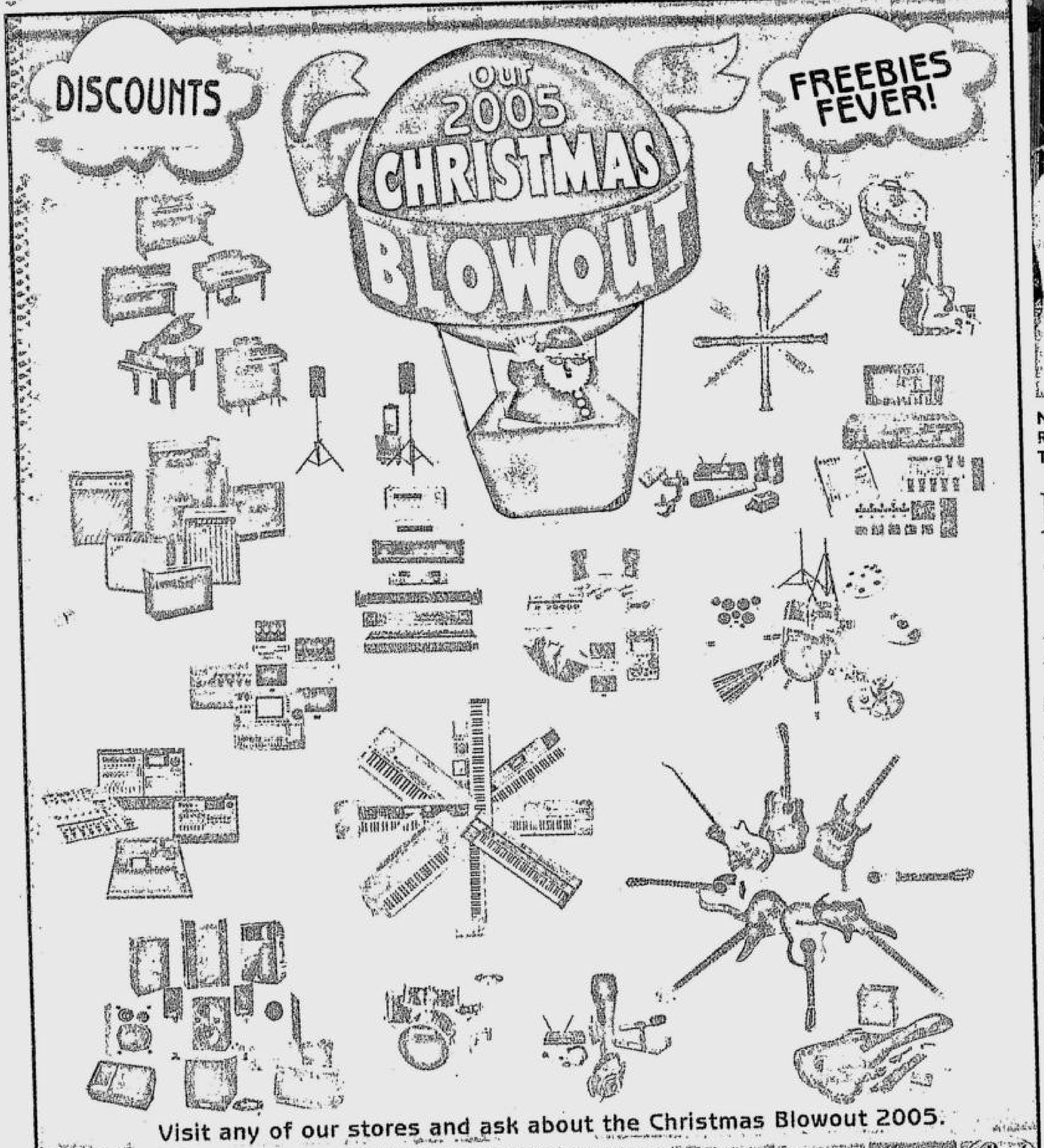
"Being the central figure in the controversy, Garcillano will do everything and tell everything to clear his name. We would know anyway if he is lying based on his own statements. Granting immunity implies he will lie," said Sandoval.

After five months in hiding, Garcillano surfaced last Sunday, talking separately to television and print reporters to deny he had rigged the 2004 polls. He vowed to appear in Congress to clear his name.

The House committees on public information, public order and safety, national defense and security, information and communications technology, and suffrage and electoral reforms decided Wednesday to temporarily lift the arrest warrant the chamber had issued for Garcillano and send him an invitation to appear instead.

The letter of invitation will be delivered to Garcillano by House sergeant-at-arms Bayani Favic and a police official a day or two before the Dec. 7 House hearing.

With TJ Burgonio



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NO SPARKS fly when political foes— President Macapagal-Arroyo and Rep. Francis Escudero—meet in the Palace Friday for the TOYM awards. The President, it turns out, is Escudero's "ninang." MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Escudero enters 'Lioness' den' to receive TOYM award

By Christine O. Avendaño

THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE nothing political about the event, but it just couldn't be helped.

House Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero, a vocal critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was at Malacañang yesterday to receive The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award for youth leadership from her.

With politics apparently not far from their minds, the audience applauded heartily when Escudero went up the stage to accept his award from the President.

Later, Escudero, 36, told reporters he did not feel uncomfortable when he and the President shook hands and exchanged pleasantries.

"Everyone knows... that we both don't belong to [the same] side on political issues," said the Sorsogon representative in Filipino. "But it's... possible for us to be together in one room without bickering or saying anything."

Escudero also revealed Ms Arroyo was one of the sponsors (*ninang*) at his wedding several years ago.

"We had met before and she had been very warm each time we saw each other," he said.

Asked if his reunion with his *ninang* would prompt him to stop criticizing her administration, Escudero said his showing up at the Palace had nothing to do with politics.

"I didn't sign such a contract," he said.

He said the TOYM award could be in recognition of the role the opposition had played in society.

"*Sa isang demokrasya, di naman pwede* yes ma'am" *lamang ang lahat,*" he said. "*Kelangan mag*-no ma'am *kung kinakailangan mag* no ma'am (In a democracy, it can't be 'yes ma'am' all the time. You have to say 'no ma'am' when it has to be 'no ma'am') ."

The other TOYM awardees for 2005 were Beethoven de Valle Bunagan, more popularly known as the actor-comedian Michael V, for arts and entertainment; Illac A. Diaz, community service/social entrepreneurship; Paul S. Cruz, aquaculture; Edgardo B. Herbosa, community/countryside development; Alvin B. Marcelo, medicine/medical informatics, and Ma. Corazon A. de Ungria, science and technology and forensic science.

Escudero was mobbed by some members of the audience wanting a picture with him or his autograph.

Asked if he had a Christmas wish for the President, he said would rather make a prayer for the people and the nation in this Yuletide.

"First [for] peace, second [for] unity and third [for] truth in order that we could get out of the current challenges we are facing," he said.

Underscoring the role of the opposition in society, Escudero said it was there to show the people and the world that democracy was alive and well in the Philippines.

DOJ files ₱2.7-M tax evasion rap vs Juday

By Armand N. Nocum

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE has formally filed tax evasion charges against actress Judy Ann Santos, saying it had established "reasonable ground" to believe that she cheated the government of P2,714,617.18 in taxes.

DOJ Prosecutor Olivia Torrevillas, who filed the case with the Court of Tax Appeals last Thursday, recommended bail of P20,000 for Santos, who was among the first show biz personalities to fall under the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program.

SANTOS

Santos filed a motion for reconsideration with the DOJ the same day she was indicted and it was not immediately clear what effect, if any, this would have on the case in court.

The three-page complaint said Santos "willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously file(d) a false and fraudulent income tax return" in 2002, claiming her gross income was only P8,033,332. However, RATE investigators said they found that "in truth and in fact, her correct income for taxable year 2002 is P16,396,902," resulting in a tax deficiency of P2.7 million, plus interest and penalties.

Records that RATE probers obtained from ABS-CBN, where Santos is a contract star, showed that the actress was paid about P11 million for taxable year 2002, the complaint said.

"In addition, BIR was able to secure certification from Viva Productions Inc. confirming that they have paid Ms Santos in 2002 talent fees amounting to P2.295 million. Star Cinema Productions, Inc. declared ... an income payment to Ms Santos amounting to P0.815 million," Deputy Commissioner Licerio C. Evangelista, head of the BIR Criminal Prosecution Group, said in a briefing early this year. The BIR claimed it had also uncovered more than P2 million in additional income Santos earned from other sources.

Santos has denied the charges and accused the BIR of perjury and falsification of documents, claiming in a counter-affidavit filed with the DOJ last July that the BIR had "deliberately and maliciously" ignored withholding taxes deducted by the movie companies. She claimed the BIR owed her over P1 million in overpaid taxes.

Other show biz personalities charged with tax evasion include actor Richard Gomez and singer Regine Velasquez.

'Idle' firm earned ₱131M in '99

A COMPANY WHICH CLAIMED TO HAVE HAD "no operation" in 1999 was charged yesterday with tax evasion after the Bureau of Internal Revenue discovered it actually earned P131.134 million in that year and evaded paying taxes on it.

The tax liability of the erring company, ALC Industries, now stands at P143.887 million, including penalties and increments.

Charged before the Department of Justice were ALCI officers Dexter Federico Ceriales, president; Helen Lagura, vice president for administration; and Rosalinda Mendoza, treasurer.

ALCI is engaged in corrosion-proofing services, including sandblasting and protective coating/lining application, industrial inspection and technical services to industries.

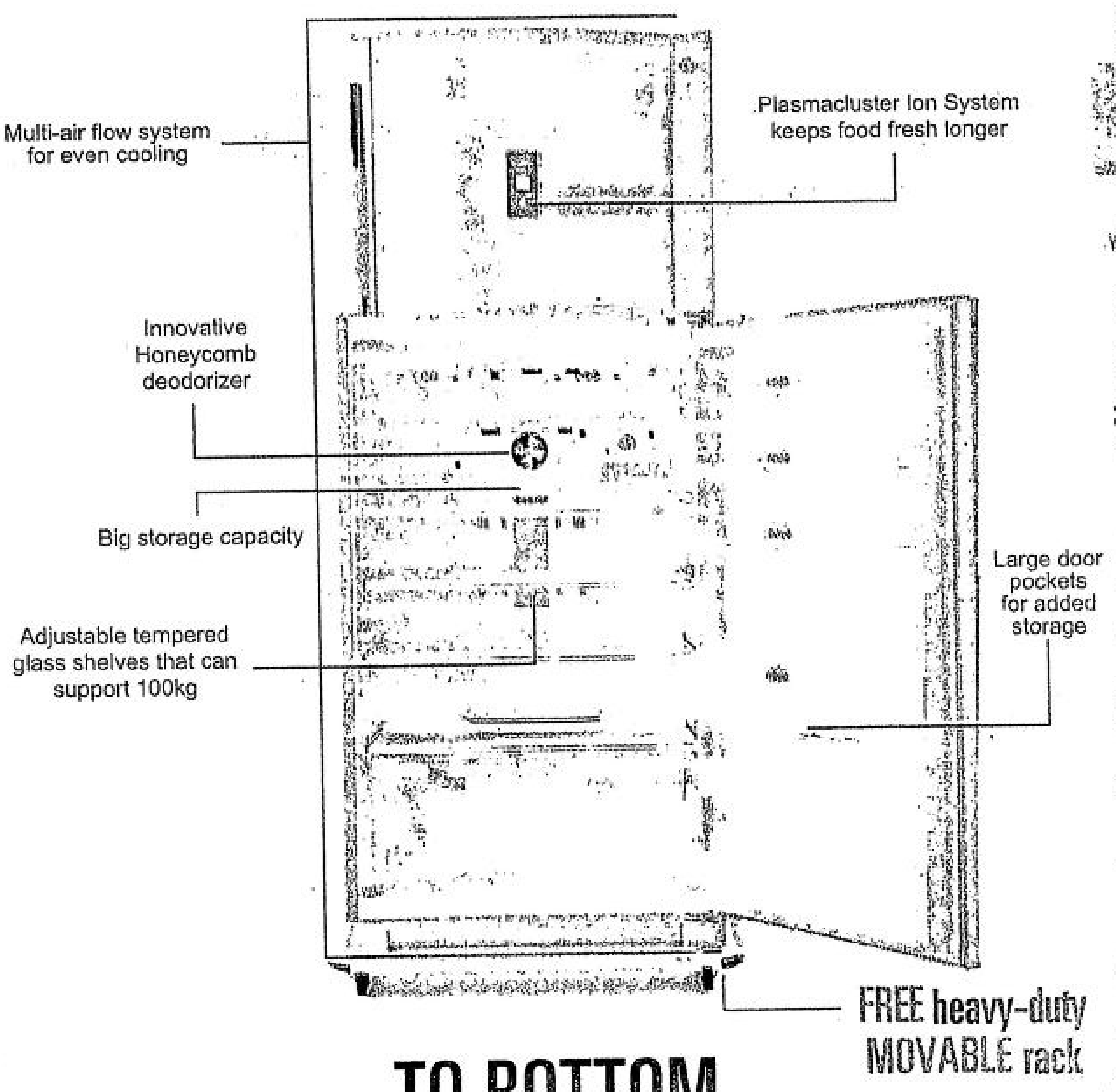
BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said the BIR discovered a deed of absolute sale between ALCI and Robin International dated June 4, 1999, in which the former sold one lot of construction tools and equipment located in the ALCI compound in the Davao-Bukidnon Road for $3.4 million, or P131.134 million.

The amount was confirmed to have been received by ALCI as affirmed by the buyer, Robin International, through an affidavit of third party claim executed by its managing director, Ronnie Broyles.

The ALCI, however, did not declare the taxable transaction in its corporate income tax return for 1999, during which stated it had "no operation."

Also, BIR records in North Makati showed that no value-added tax return was ever filed by ALCI when the transaction should have been subject to VAT.

Buñag said the "willful and deliberate act" of ALCI corporate officers in declaring in its income tax returns that the company had no operations in 1999 and in failing to file the required VAT return, which resulted in the nonpayment of taxes, were clear violations of the country's tax laws. *Cynthia D. Balana*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Subic 'war' irks Palace; execs warned

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo is reportedly fed up with the increasingly ugly war between administration Sen. Richard Gordon and the Magsaysay family for control of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

The conflict has become so petty that the proteges of the two—SBMA chair Feliciano G. Salonga, a Magsaysay boy, and SBMA Administrator Armand C. Arreza, Gordon's pet—are now fighting over who of them has the right to the much-coveted office and mansion reserved for the United States Admiral in the former US naval base.

According to a Palace source, reports of the vicious power struggle between Salonga and Arreza have so angered the President that she ordered the two "to settle their differences or else" in a meeting early this week.

The source said Ms Arroyo has decided that neither of the two warring officials may have the use of the office and mansion which the Salonga and Arrreza want very badly in order to solidify their claim to being the undisputed lord of the Subic Freeport Zone.

Salonga and Arreza recently ordered a renovation of the former US admiral's office that would make it possible for them to share it. It remains to be seen whether the makeover would continue in the face of the President's decision.

The source also said that the US Admiral's former official residence is to be reserved for the use of the President and the Cabinet secretaries whenever they visit the Freeport.

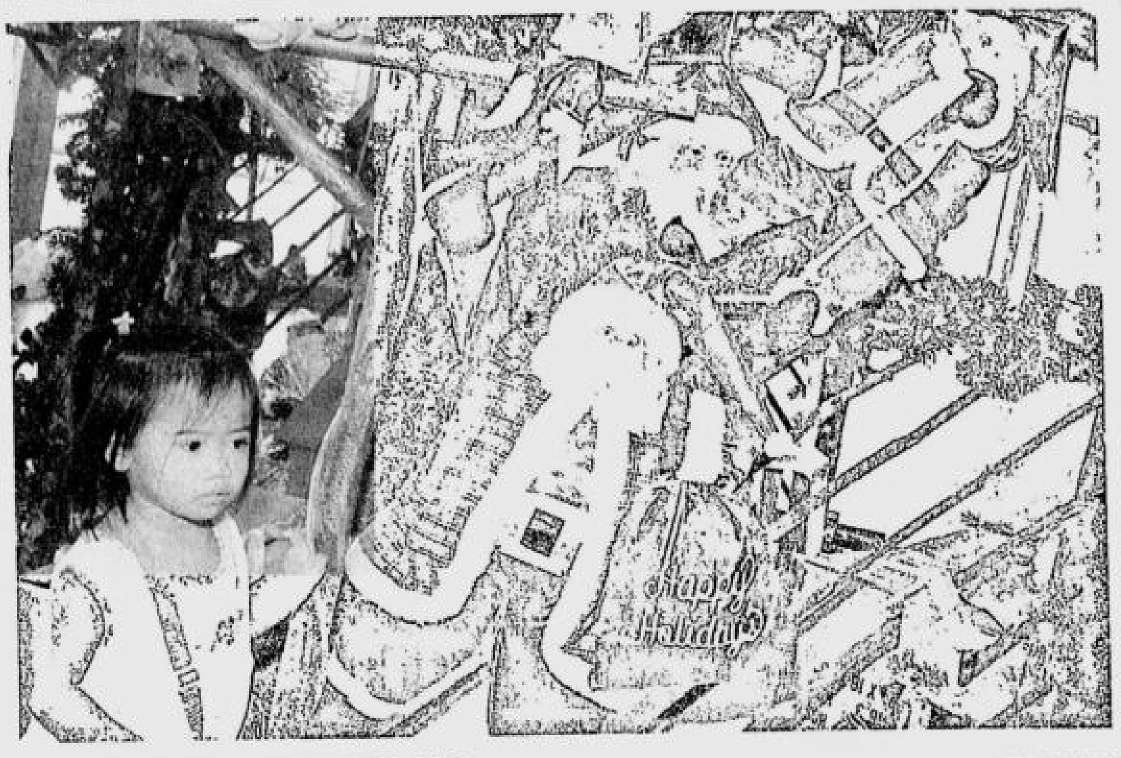
The power play has been simmering since Salonga and Arreza were appointed to their posts two months ago, reportedly as a political favor by the President to their patrons—the Magsaysays of Zambales and Gordon of Olongapo—who are both allies of the administration.

The President's use of SBMA positions as political spoils reportedly drove the then SBMA chair Francisco Licuanan to resign in disgust a few months ago.

Licuanan's appointment last year as SBMA chair was welcomed by investors because of his long experience with Ayala Land, the country's premier real estate company. It was thought that he would be able to help the President realize her dream of turning Subic and the Clark economic zone into a regional logistics hub.

Since the conversion of the Subic naval base into an industrial and tourism complex more than a decade ago, the SBMA post of chair and administrator were traditionally held by one individual. Gordon was the first SBMA chair from 1992 to 1998. Felicito Payumo held the post from 1998 to 2004.

To satisfy her two allies, Ms Arroyo decided to split the SBMA leadership into two separate positions, thus indirectly giving rise to the vicious infighting.



YES, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS RUDY ESPERAS

They're tiny as tots and make great Christmas decor, as this little girl discovers at the Lifestyle Expo at the World Trade Center.

Malacañang scraps jobs fair after fee controversy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG HAS DECIDED to cancel today's scheduled jobs fair on the Palace grounds amid questions on the exorbitant fees charged by the Office of the Press Secretary and the lack of transparency in the collection and use of these funds.

Emerito Magdangal, the aide to Press Undersecretary Robert Rivera who conceptualized the quarterly jobs fair project, told the INQUIRER he was informed late yesterday that the project had been postponed due to "security reasons." He could not explain, however, what these threats were since the Presidential Security Group had lowered security alert levels and even opened the Mendiola gates.

Malacañang sources said President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had ordered the suspension of the project after hearing of the P60,000 fee charged per private participant on top of the generous sponsorship deals obtained by the OPS from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

The booth fees were more than double the going rate for similar job fairs held in more hospitable places such as malls and hotels. In contrast, the Palace provided only an asphalted driveway as venue for the OPS jobs fair.

The high participation fees had turned off a number of prospective employers who wanted to pitch in to the President's efforts to find jobs for Filipinos.

Magdangal said he was "disappointed" by the postponement of the project because he had poured his time, effort and money in organizing the event. When asked how much advances and who ordered him to make these advances, Magdangal said: "Secret."

OLD BOYS CLUB?

2 senators criticize JBC

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

TWO SENATORS YESTERDAY criticized the Judicial and Bar Council for scrapping the public interview of candidates for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, with one of them suggesting the council be abolished because it had become an "old boys club."

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, a member of the JBC who voted for what would have been the first time Chief Justice nominees would have been subjected to a public interview, said the majority decision to forego with the process was unfortunate.

"There are calls among various sectors for the abolition of the JBC and the return to the old system wherein all appointments to the judiciary went through the Commission on Appointments, because of the perception that the JBC is an old boys club," Pangilinan said.

He said scrapping the interviews reinforced the perception that JBC was not an independent body.

Sen. Ralph Recto said the Chief Justice was not beyond public scrutiny.

"This is a search for the head of a branch of government who shall be fourth in the line of succession," Recto said. "If government janitors are interviewed for the job, if presidential candidates have to debate among themselves, and if a barangay captain has to field questions from voters, I don't see why a candidate for Chief Justice must be spared from a short and polite question-and-answer session."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, a member of the JBC, took exception to the criticism, saying the interview was not necessary because there were only three nominees and their qualifications and records were already known.

"They are all qualified, they are all members of the court, they are all equal and all are associate justices," he said.

The eight-member JBC, which screens and nominates appointees to judicial posts, scrapped the interviews after 12 Supreme Court justices objected to the process.

The interviews would have given the public an opportunity to scrutinize Associate Justices Artemio Panganiban, Reynato Puno and Leonardo Quisumbing who had been named as possible replacements for Davide, who retires on Dec. 20.

The JBC rejected Pangilinan's request to extend the deadline for nominations to include Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

The JBC, however, extended the deadline for the nomination of chief presidential legal counsel Merceditas Gutierrez for Ombudsman. The President subsequently appointed Gutierrez as the new Ombudsman in the place of Simeon Marcelo who resigned.

Workers to get non-wage benefits – but only next year

By Christine O. Avendaño

WORKERS BEING PAID THE LEgal minimum will get the nonwage benefits promised by the government, but only by early next year.

Government officials yesterday presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo a proposed package of nonwage benefits that they had put together in behalf of minimum wage earners, working people most adversely affected by the continued rise in the prices of goods.

"We've talked to major stakeholders and they have said 'yes' to it. We are hopeful this can be implemented by the New Year," Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said after submitting the proposal to the President.

The proposal includes withholding tax exemptions; making available loans to companies intended for the purchase of buses for employees; making available more "rolling stores" offering low-priced goods; and instructions to the Department of Trade and Industry to heighten its price monitoring activities.

DepEd to students, teachers: No caroling, please

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCAtion yesterday discouraged students and teachers from caroling to solicit money even as it directed public schools around the country to keep their Christmas parties austere and simple in light of the people's economic difficulties.

DepEd Officer-in-Charge Fe Hidalgo said students and teachers must not use the Christmas season to solicit money from anyone through caroling, adding that the department was set to issue a written order to this effect.

"We will discourage caroling or anything that is indirectly asking for contributions during the Christmas season," Hidalgo told reporters.

Hidalgo said the DepEd has received reports that teachers had sent letters to their students' parents informing them that they planned to drop by their homes to carol.

She said that caroling has taken on a different meaning in the country, "with people indirectly asking for some gifts."

"We will come out with a reminder for the teachers to exercise austerity measures since we know how hard life is now," she said.

Hidalgo also said the department would encourage "simple celebrations" for class Christmas parties.

"Every year we ask for austerity measures for Christmas parties. That should be a given and we feel we should reiterate this," Hidalgo said.

Hidalgo said the proposed circular would also be distributed to private schools "but we will leave it to them to make a judicious decision on the matter."

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, December 3, 2005
2nd Week of Advent

1st Reading: Is 30:19-21,23-26
Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:1,6-8

Jesus went around all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom, and he cured every sickness and disease. When he saw the crowds he was moved with pity, for they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the workers are only few. Ask the master of the harvest to send workers to gather his harvest."

Then he called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority over the unclean spirits to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness.

He said, "Go instead to the lost sheep of the people of Israel.

"Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift."

Commentary

It is Advent and Jesus is traveling the towns proclaiming hope, good news to the poor and healing. The crowds call forth waves of pity and Jesus exhorts his disciples to reach out and to pray for others, many others to join him in this work that stretches across a world and through time. The work is staggering: heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers and drive out demons—this power has been given to us as gift and our lives must be a constant gift—giving and sharing with others. Xavier did it half a world away from his home. We can go that far, but we can do it across the street and downtown, anywhere. Give!

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Correction

IN THE NOV. 28 issue, the caption of a frontpage photo misspelled the name of a Southeast Asian Games gold medalist as Seceil Domenios. The correct spelling of her first name is Ceseil. The same error appeared in a photo caption on Page A26.

****

A FRONTPAGE story on Nov. 26–"No execution for Larrañaga while GMA is president"–and a Nov. 27 story on Page A3-"'Punish Larrañaga but not with death'" misspelled as Marie Joy and Mary Joy the first name of rape-murder victim Chiong. The correct spelling is Marijoy. A Nov. 28 story on Page A2–"Crime victims score JDV meddling in case"–also misspelled her name as Marie Joy.

***

A STORY, "HSBC exec has high hopes for RP economy" (Page B1) published on Dec. 1, it said that Vincent Cheng is the chair of HSBC.

Vincent Cheng is the chair of The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp., the Asia-Pacific arm of the HSBC Group. The HSBC Group chairman (HSBC Holdings plc) is still Sir John Bond, who will be replaced in May by Stephen Green, currently group chief executive.

***

THE ARTICLE, "Workers lose factory but keep pay," published on Page A23 of the Metro Section last Dec. 2, misstated that the inspector who discovered the slightly burnt vault was Insp. Enrico Wawa. His name is Insp. Enrico Caco.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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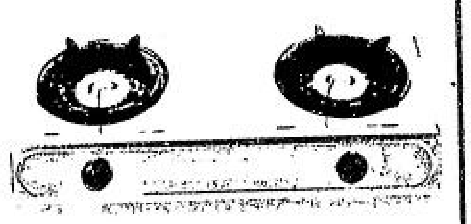

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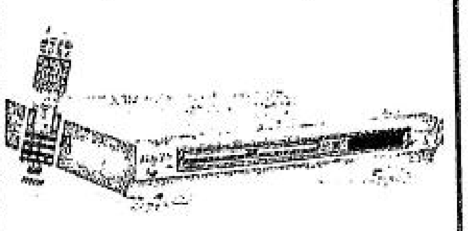

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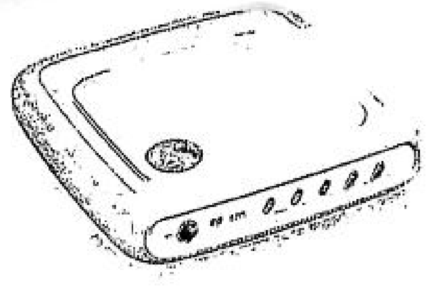

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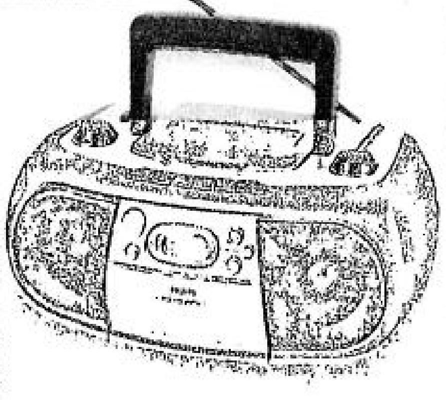

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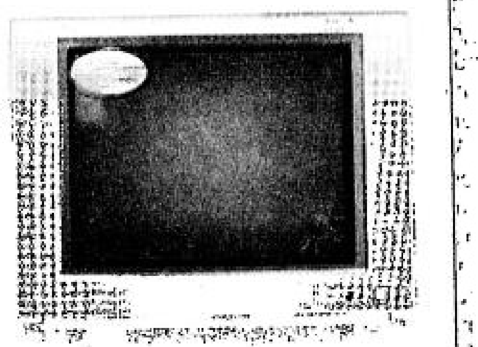

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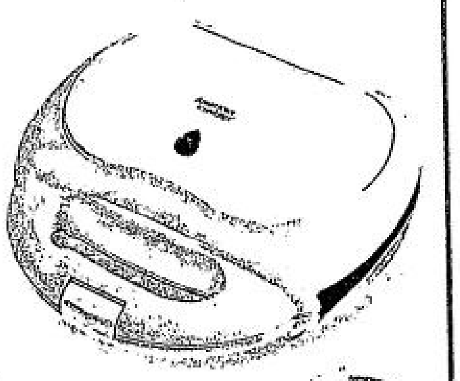

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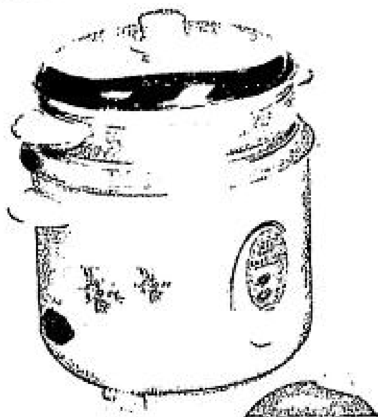

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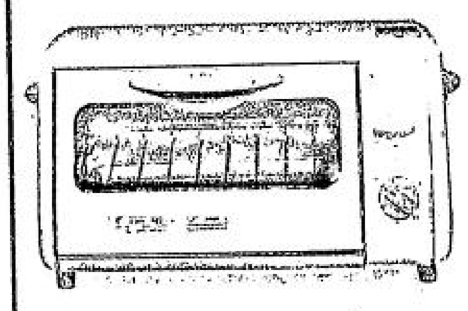

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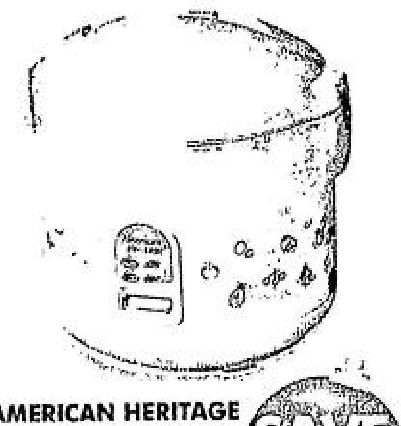

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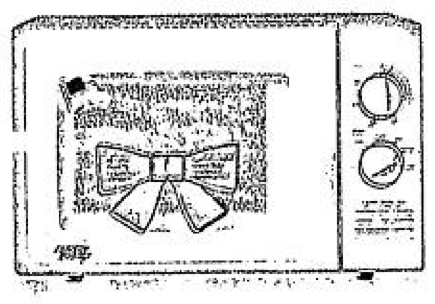

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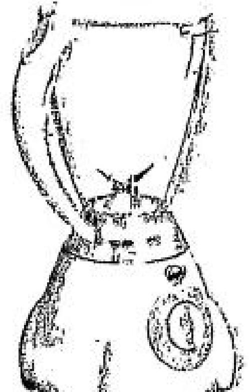

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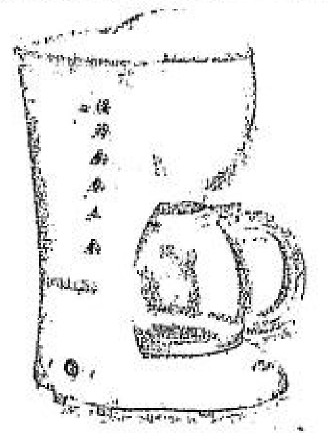

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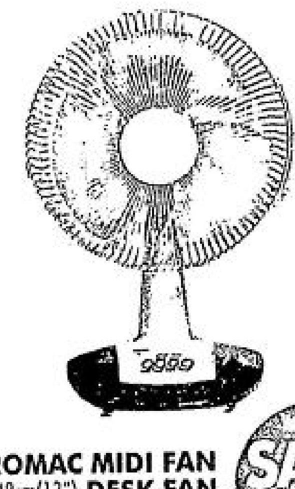

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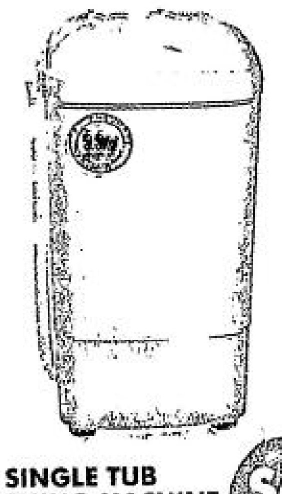

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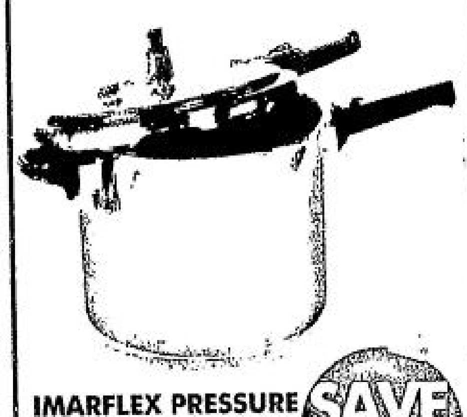

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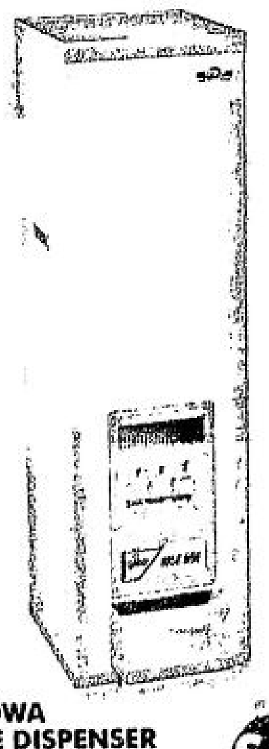

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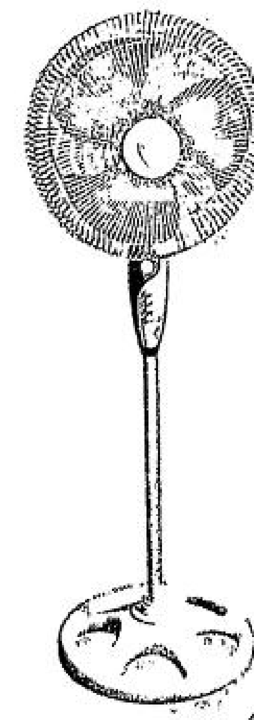

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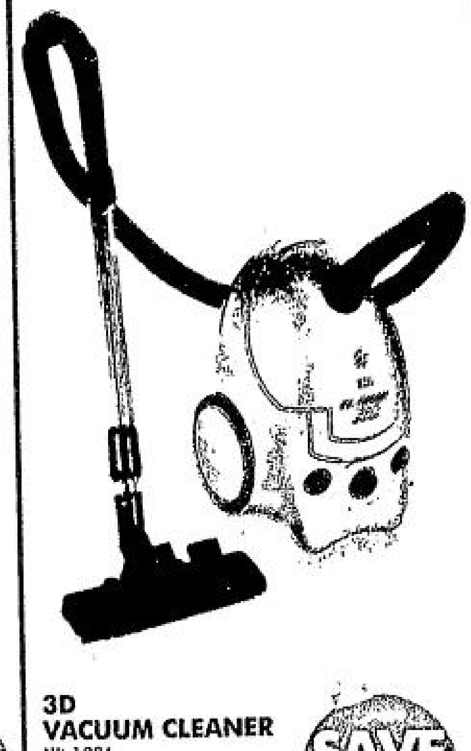

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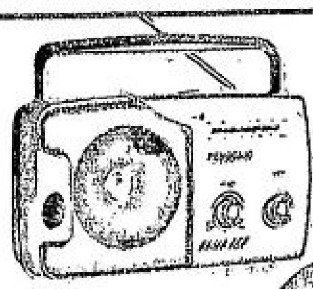

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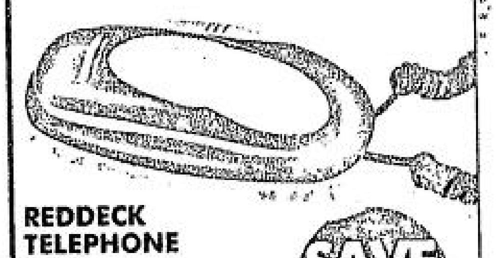

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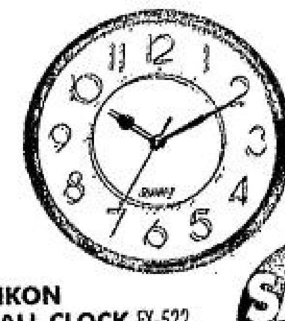

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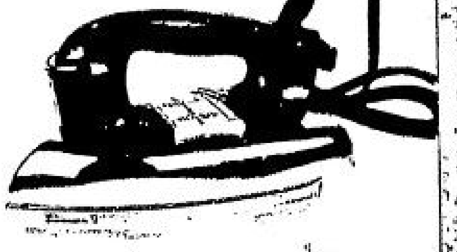

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Solons appalled . . .

From page A1

read independently"—and lawmakers are so alarmed they want education resources to go for the first three years of basic schooling.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, the chair of the House appropriations committee, yesterday said this came from the diagnostic test results of elementary school students submitted by the DepEd to Congress which is reviewing the department's proposed budget for 2006.

Andaya said the findings pointed to the "low quality and quantity" of elementary school students leading legislators to propose that the DepEd focus its attention and resources on Grades 1 to 3.

"The battle cry is 'All resources to the Grade 1 to 3 fronts.' This means that the teacher, book and classroom shortages in the first three grades will be addressed first," he said.

The report showed that 75 percent of public elementary school graduates cannot read without the help of somebody, Andaya said.

High attrition

Of the 100 students who enter Grade 1, only 58 finish elementary school and go on to high school, he said.

And of 58 high school freshmen, only 48 will graduate, he added.

"Of the 100 pupils who enter Grade 1, only 76 will reach Grade 4. This is an alarming casualty rate which has triggered proposals in the House to focus new school resources in the early grades of basic education," Andaya said.

Andaya likened the education system to a conveyor belt. "Only half of those who begin the trip will reach the high school finish line, with 25 percent falling off within three years of coming on board," he said.

Confluence of problems

Though the DepEd did not cite a particular reason for the low quality and quantity of elementary school graduates, he said this may have been caused by the "confluence" of problems plaguing the education system like the lack of classrooms, books and even untrained teachers.

He noted that more than 200 schools in the country's most highly urbanized area reported that classrooms there served more than 100 students each.

He said 73 percent of physics teachers in public schools were not even physics majors.

Of the P119 billion budget being proposed for education in 2006, P2.9 billion has been earmarked for the hiring of new teachers and their salaries, P2 billion for 5,000 new classrooms, P1.8 billion for 36.2 million new textbooks and manuals, and P1 billion for 1.33 million new chairs.

But even with a larger budget allocation for next year, the DepEd yesterday said P119 billion (up from P112 billion in 2005) would not be enough to cover the projected shortages in classrooms, teachers, desks and chairs next school year.

In a press briefing yesterday, DepEd officer in charge Fe Hidalgo said the country's education system would not experience any improvement in services, particularly in meeting the gap in facilities, with such a limited budget.

She explained that a large chunk of the DepEd's budget, or 90 percent, would go to payment of the salaries of around half a million public school teachers.

With the remaining 10 percent, the department has to reckon with a projected 2.7-percent increase in the student population next school year and 7 percent inflation, Hidalgo said.

Playing catch up

To be able to close the gap in resources and still provide quality education, the DepEd would need a P133-billion budget, and this has to grow by about P8 billion annually until 2015, with an 11-percent increase in the initial year, Hidalgo said.

"We will never catch up until the required budget is met for us to implement quality programs and projects on a grand scale. The quality of teaching and learning will not improve," Hidalgo said.

According to figures from the DepEd, the country spends a paltry P6,354 per student every year.

Just before the opening of classes this year, the DepEd closed the gap in classroom shortages mainly through the "stop-gap" measure of "multiple shifting" of classes. But this meant reducing the time that students spent inside the classroom, officials said.

Calling on business sector

Hidalgo also called on the public, particularly the business sector, to help the DepEd with its programs directed at closing the resource gaps.

But Undersecretary Ramon Bacani said the department would make sure that "we are able to utilize whatever budget is given to us in the most efficient way."

Defensor blinks, recalls . . .

From page A1

Seminary run by the Archdiocese of Palo.

Defensor himself refused to tell reporters what transpired in the dialogue. He said it would be the bishops who would announce this at the press conference.

He expressed gratitude to the bishops for giving him the time to explain his side of the issue.

Unbelieving

Enrile could not be reached for comment.

But Napoleon Poblador, legal counsel of the San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC), expressed doubt that Defensor had changed his mind regarding the resumption of the firm's logging operations in Samar.

"The official word from the DENR is that the lifting of the logging moratorium is justified under the law. Unless this is set aside, [SJTC] has every right, after securing the necessary requirements, to resume timber harvesting," Poblador said in a phone interview in Manila.

He said that while Defensor's supposed turnaround had to be confirmed, "we believe there's no valid, legal reason for the DENR to reconsider and set aside its earlier resolution lifting the moratorium."

Poblador said Defensor was "probably misquoted." He pointed out that there was no pending motion before the DENR or an appeal before the Office of the President seeking a reconsideration of Defensor's order.

"There's no legal move by the oppositors to question the lifting of the moratorium. How can the DENR make a pronouncement to that effect?" he said.

On Aug. 15, Defensor allowed the SJTC to resume logging in 95,770 hectares of forest lands in Samar, and extended its timber permit by 16 years.

The logging area lies in the heart of a natural park.

"This is not a rescinding of any order because there was no order at all. It was just a recognition of a prior right of a claim of San Jose Timber even before the moratorium," Bishop Medroso quoted Defensor as saying at the dialogue.

Bishop Jose Palma of the Diocese of Calbayog (Samar) said Defensor "explained mostly the legal side" of the issue.

"On our part, we were underlining the point that the issue is more than just legal; there is much of the moral side to it. If he mentioned the right of Enrile, we emphasized the fact that some people have prior rights," Palma said.

According to Palma, it was Defensor who sought late last month a dialogue with the bishops and other church people of Samar and Leyte.

Medroso said he and the other bishops would cancel the caravan-rally on Monday and the planned gathering of signatures for the petition.

The Church in Samar has opposed the resumption of the logging operations of SJTC.

It said the circumstances leading to the lifting of the logging moratorium had not been transparent, the process was "flawed," and the law was "applied without due consideration for the poor in order to please the powerful."

Particulars

Yesterday's meeting, dubbed "A dialogue between the Archbishop and bishops of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Palo and the Secretary and staff of the [DENR]," had the theme "Samar Island Forest: For the Preservation or for Commercial Logging."

As recounted at the press conference, Defensor presented to the church people the "Samar Logging Operation."

The church people responded with the reading of a joint pastoral statement of the bishops and clergy of Samar and Leyte titled "Rescind the DENR Order to Resume Logging Operations in Samar."

The pastoral statement was signed by Archbishop Pedro Dean of Palo, Bishops Medroso and Palma, Bishop Emmanuel Trance of Catarman (Northern Samar), Bishop Filomeno Bactol of the Diocese of Naval (Biliran), Auxiliary Bishop Isabelo Abarquez of Palo, and Bishop Emeritus Angel Hobayan of Catarman, and the clergy.

They urged the government, especially Defensor, to look beyond political and economic accommodations, and to truly love the people and serve their welfare.

Among the reasons cited for the common stand was the need to keep the forest intact.

"In our judgment, rescinding the DENR order is a demand of the people's welfare. That welfare, after all, is the highest law *(salus populi suprema lex),*" the statement said.

"The issuance of the order came in the wake of a morally compromised situation: Two public officials sharing favors that seem mutually related to one another," it said.

Without mentioning names, the statement said that "[a] senator of the republic helping to confirm the appointment of a DENR secretary who himself issues an order allowing the senator's logging company to operate again, clearly does not at all inspire confidence in the absence of a political trade-off between powerful people at the expense of Samar Island and its hapless people."

"Rescinding the order, therefore, rights a wrong and rekindles hope. It will, moreover, prove the seriousness of the government's thrust against even a semblance of graft," it said.

Another reason cited was that the decision of the DENR stood on the wrong side of the moral equation: "The order keeps alive a business but it threatens the very survival of people and very precious flora and fauna.

"A corporation's right to exist and to operate had been deemed more important than the survival of lowland farmers and their families and even the Philippine eagle, whose biggest number is in Samar Island."

'Premature'

But Poblador said it would be "premature" for the DENR to decide whether to allow the logging firm to resume operations even before it could submit all the requirements in its application for an environmental compliance certificate.

To secure the certificate, the SJTC has to provide a study on the ground, consult with nongovernment organizations and Church leaders, and get the approval of the councils of the towns affected by the resumption of its operations, among other things, Poblador said.

"It's a long process. It takes six months to one year for the DENR to allow the actual operations," he said.

All the way to SC

But assuming that the DENR had issued an official order setting aside its earlier order, Poblador said, SJTC would have to resort to "legal remedies" and to "pursue this all the way to the highest court."

In a statement this week, Enrile said he committed no crime in seeking to renew his firm's permit to resume operations in Samar.

"I have been holding the [forest] concession for 25 years," the senator said. "I did not get it from the government. It was sold to me and I bought it. Now, I have not committed any crime. If they think I have committed any crime, they are free to take their action."

Radioman slain in Cebu, 10th this year

From page A1

waiting taxi. They described him as between 25 and 35 years old, of medium build and wearing a polo shirt and denim pants.

Cebu Vice Gov. Gregorio Sanchez, who operates station dyDD, condemned the killing and urged authorities to get to the bottom of it.

Sanchez said Benaojan's murder could be work-related or the result of a personal grudge.

He said that in the first quarter of the year, Benaojan was receiving death threats through text messages.

Police officials in Cebu said the murder might have something to do with Benaojan's reports on the Bureau of Customs.

Supt. Vicente Loot, chief of the Cebu Provincial Police Office, said Benaojan's weekly commentary over Bantay Radyo and his column in the weekly magazine Tradewinds were "concentrated on smuggling issues."

"That's why we will review his latest broadcasts and his columns," Loot said.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Gador, chief of the Police Regional Office, also raised the smuggling issue as the biggest angle, but said other angles were also being considered.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao arrived in Cebu yesterday afternoon to supervise the investigation being conducted by a task force headed by Loot.

Other agencies like the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group were also doing separate investigations.

Isolated cases

But even as the number of slain journalists continued to rise, the PNP refused to acknowledge that a culture of impunity existed in the Philippines.

"We still believe that these are isolated cases. We treat every media killing as an individual case based on individual motives," PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said in Manila.

"But we give special attention to media killings because we maintain that these are an affront to our press freedom. We don't want these media killings to persist. We have a system in place already, and we will continue to solve all standing cases," Bataoil said.

Friend's account

This was how the killing transpired, according to Adriano "Jammy" Llanos, 40, Benaojan's friend and dyDD volunteer reporter who also owns a store near Benaojan's:

Benaojan and his longtime girlfriend Rhea Flores arrived at his store at around 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Llanos and Benaojan were talking in the alley between their stores when a man suddenly emerged and trained a handgun on Benaojan's forehead.

The handgun did not fire at the man's first attempt. Benaojan grabbed the gun but was overpowered by the bigger man.

When Benaojan lost hold of the gun, the man fired at him.

"I heard at least four gunshots," Llanos said.

He ran away and took cover in the nearby store. He went back to help Benaojan after the man left the scene in a waiting taxi.

Llanos drove Benaojan to the hospital on board the latter's Mitsubishi Pajero.

Benaojan was still conscious at the time, and even told Llanos to take him to the Chong Hua Hospital.

A police report said the taxi, with plate number 423, sped toward Cebu City.

"Another person believed to be the spotter of the gunman hastily took a ride in a passenger multicab bound for Minglanilla, Cebu," the report said.

In a statement, the NUJP reiterated its plea to authorities to expedite the investigation of the media killings, and to the Department of Justice to ensure that the cases would be prosecuted and tried.

"This is important in light of the fact that some sectors in the Philippine media have begun showing their impatience by arming themselves, by offering bounties on killers of journalists, and even talking about the formation of vigilante groups to hunt down the killers," it said.

The NUJP stressed it was not endorsing these methods in addressing the problem. But it said it understood "the desperation felt by many in the media profession who feel continually under siege and helpless about the violence and threats against them and their colleagues."

It said that while the motives in the assassination of certain journalists might not be related to their work, killing was not the solution to disputes.

"That murdering journalists has become common highlights the fact that there is a breakdown of law and order in the Philippines, as evidenced as well by the increasing murders of activists, human-rights advocates, lawyers, even peasants and ordinary Filipinos," the NUJP said.

8 cases 'solved'

Bataoil said that of the 10 media killings recorded this year, only two were unsolved—that of broadcaster Ricardo Uy in Sorsogon City on Nov. 18, and of Benaojan.

He said the other eight cases had been "solved," meaning the suspects had been identified and charged in court.

The PNP defines the solution of a case as the identification of the suspects or masterminds and the filing of charges against them, not necessarily their arrest.

On Thursday, police named Buboy and Jalal Saidali, stall keepers at Pinky's Market in Barangay Banlic in Cabuyao, Laguna, as the suspects in the killing of Katapat News columnist Roberto "Robby" Ramos.

The Saidali brothers had supposedly accused Ramos of causing the raid on stalls selling pirated CDs, VCDs and DVDs.

"Just yesterday, we announced the solution of the Ramos killing with the identification of two suspects, who are now the subject of a manhunt. So we have two still unsolved [cases]—the Uy case in Sorsogon and this one in Cebu," Bataoil said.

"We are confident that with the cooperation of friends in the media and the community, we will be able to solve these cases," he said.

Early this week, the Cebu Regional Trial Court sentenced former policeman Guillermo Wapille to life in prison for the May 2002 murder of Edgar Damalerio, managing editor of the Mindanao Scribe and a commentator of dxKP radio in Pagadian City.

But most of the other cases have remained in limbo, prompting the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists to describe the Philippines as the world's most "murderous" country for journalists. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto in Manila*

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RP bans poultry from Canada due to bird flu

THE PHILIPPINES HAS BANNED THE IMportation of birds and poultry products from British Columbia, Canada, after a strain of the bird flu virus was reportedly discovered there, the Agriculture secretary said yesterday.

The ban covers domestic and wild birds, day-old chicks, eggs and semen, according to the Department of Agriculture.

It directed authorities to suspend processing of import and quarantine permits and confiscate all shipments of poultry and poultry products from the Canadian province already in the country.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said the move was prompted by a report by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that a "low pathogenic" H5 strain of the virus was detected in a commercial duck farm in British Columbia on Nov. 18.

The deadlier H5N1 strain has been ravaging poultry stocks across Asia since 2003 and has jumped to humans, killing at least 68, most in Vietnam and Thailand, according to the World Health Organization.

From January to early November, the Philippines imported around 10 million metric tons of poultry products from Canada, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The Philippines is one of the few countries in Asia free of bird flu. *AP*

Back Suu Kyi, expel Burma from Asean, solon urges gov't

By TJ Burgonio

BEYOND DEFENDING THE COUNtry's hosting of the Southeast Asian Games, Philippine officials should take up the cudgels for Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi at the upcoming leaders' summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday urged government officials to take the initiative and have Burma (Myanmar) expelled from the regional grouping over its military leaders' "unjust order" extending Suu Kyi's detention under house arrest by six months.

Pimentel branded the military junta's action as "condemnable," noting it had kept the Nobel peace laureate in prison or under house arrest for 10 of the past 16 years.

"Myanmar has shown it can't be trusted. It should be expelled from Asean," Pimentel said in a statement.

The senator, vice chair of the Southeast Asian Parliamentary Caucus on Myanmar, said the refusal of the military regime to free Suu Kyi betrayed its "lack of commitment" to take steps toward democratization, "in disregard of the Asean principle of full respect for the rights of the peoples of its member-nations."

Suu Kyi and other leaders of the National League of Democracy (NLD) were thrown into prison after the party won most of the seats in parliamentary elections held in 1990.

Suu Kyi's detention under house arrest was last extended by 12 months a year ago, Pimentel said.

At the Asean leaders' summit to be held on Dec. 11-14, Philippine officials may have to contend with the issue of fairness in the SEA Games currently being held in Manila if Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra makes good his threat.

Thaksin had expressed disappointment with the conduct of the Games, particularly how one country appeared to be winning most of the medals. He did not name the Philippines but it was clear which country he was referring to.

He said he might raise the issue at the Asean summit.

Pimentel warned that repression in Burma could worsen unless organizations like Asean interceded and exerted pressure on its military rulers to fulfill their "pledge to democratize."

He noted the military junta had ignored appeals by Asean political leaders to allow members of Suu Kyi's party to be represented in the national convention that is drafting a new constitution as part of the junta's "road map" to democracy.

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South Koreans extend assistance to Korean War vets

SOUTH KOREAN civic organizations will distribute free sacks of rice to Filipino veterans, or their widows, to thank them and the Philippines for helping save their country from Communism during the bloody Korean War in the early 1950s.

Enopi Daekyu Phils. Inc., the Paju City Lions Club District 354-H and the Roh Foundation will distribute the rice on Dec. 11. They will be assisted by the officials of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok) Veterans Association Inc., the only association of Korean War veterans in the country.

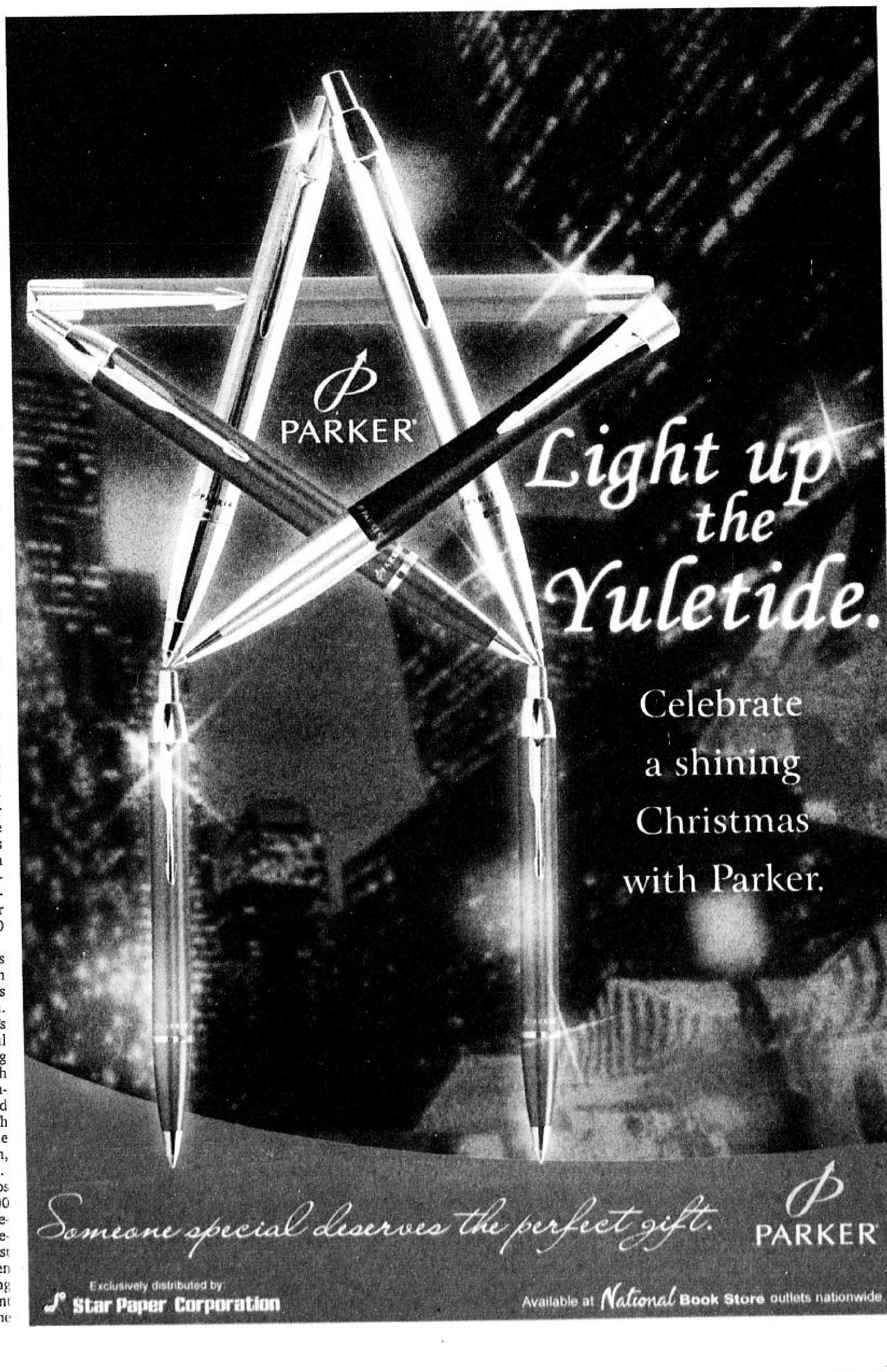
Rep. Ernesto Gidaya, a Korean War veteran and former ambassador to South Korea from 1994-98, will be the guest of honor at the event.

Jin Hun Roh, Enopi Daekyu president, said the rice giving would be the first in a series of donations benefiting Filipino Korean War veterans and their families. Less than 3,000 out of the 7,000 Filipino soldiers who fought in the Korean Peninsula are alive today.

Retired Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro, PVAI president, said the Korean War veterans are thankful for the gesture, and are glad that today's younger generation of South Koreans remember the Philippines' sacrifice for their country over 50 years ago.

The Philippines sent five Battalion Combat Teams (BCTs) to Korea. The PEFTOK BCTs that played vital roles in thwarting communist North Korea's and Communist China's bid to conquer South Korea were the 10th, 20th, 19th, 14th and 2nd BCTs.

Over 100 Filipinos died while some 400 were wounded defending South Korean from communist aggression. Sixteen countries including the Philippines sent combat units to the Korean War under the United Nations Command. Five more countries provided humanitarian aid.



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Thai government spokesman insists RP cheating

From page A1

said.

"The host must extend a good welcome to visitors and have fairness in mind."

Many Thais have felt discontent because after watching some of the events shown live on television, the events Thais lost had been frequently replayed, allowing mistakes in judging decisions to be seen, Surapong said.

Among the examples he cited were the final of the men's 5,000 meters run which was marred by blocking, and women's taekwondo, where Thailand's Olympic bronze medalist Yawopa Burapolchai was defeated by her Filipino opponent.

Surapong did not say that the Filipino runner involved in the blocking incident was disqualified and the gold was awarded to the Thai runner.

Surapong said he wanted game officials to know that people across the region were closely watching the Games and that Thai athletes had been affected by "unfair play."

Sailing into storm

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop will run right smack into the controversy when he arrives in Manila this afternoon.

Suwat and his party are scheduled to fly into the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 3:20 p.m. via Thai Airways, airport officials said.

The Thai official will be given a reception at the Naia dignitaries' lounge as per request of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the airport officials said.

Suwat is expected to make a clarification on Thaksin's reported statement about officiating at the Games.

Suwat is to participate in the tradition of passing the flag to the next host country.

Media blamed

President Macapagal-Arroyo has announced an investigation following earlier remarks by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra about fairness in officiating results.

Athletes from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and East Timor are competing for 439 gold medals in 40 events.

Thaksin, a former policeman and telecoms tycoon, did not directly accuse the Philippines of favoring its athletes to win.

In a separate statement, the Thai government yesterday blamed the media for "taking out of context" Thaksin's remarks.

In the statement coursed through its embassy in Manila, Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued "clarifications," saying Thaksin was merely stressing "his view" that the spirit of the Games was more important than piling up medals.

No slight intended

The ministry maintained that Thaksin did not direct his comments "at any particular country or party."

And this time around, the Philippines was described in the embassy statement as "the gracious host" of the Games, whose hospitality and generosity had been "unrivalled."

"The comments of (Thaksin) were taken out of context by the media," said the statement.

"The thrust of the prime minister's remarks was intended to underscore his view that in such important international competition as SEA Games, the spirit of participation among all athletes is more important than the winning of medals," it said, adding:

"(His) remarks were not directed at any particular country, least of all the gracious host of the current Games whose generosity and hospitality have proven unrivalled."

Cojuangco defends Games

Philippine officials disputed reports of irregularities at the Games, saying there were no Filipino judges or referees involved in events where Filipino athletes were competing.

"All the events are officiated in a very transparent manner," Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the head of the Philippine organizing committee, said in a letter to Ms Arroyo.

He said that two Thai sports officials in Manila had apologized and denied making accusations against the Philippines in some events, such as boxing and taekwondo.

The Southeast Asian Games Federation Council had also congratulated the Philippines for the successful staging of the games, he added.

"To us, this is the strongest argument against any accusation or even innuendo of impropriety," Cojuangco wrote.

The spat prompted a dozen leftist protesters to march outside the Thai Embassy in Manila yesterday.

DVD for Thaksin

Rep. Abraham Mitra said the Philippines should send Thaksin "a complete DVD collection" so he "can see with his very own eyes" how the Games were played fairly.

"Cameras don't lie," he said. "If the good Prime Minister would like to do some sports analysis, the DVDs would allow him to tinker with instant replay of his favorite games." *Reports from Nikko Dizon, Volt Contreras, Reuters and AFP*

1. LOSING THE GOLD in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol (men's finals) at the shooting range in Fort Bonifacio, Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla hits himself on the head. **2.** Hugging for luck: Noel Salvador and fellow triathlist Ani Katrina de Leon. Salvador landed in 5th place. **3.** Maritess Bitbit is comforted by Sen. Pia Cayetano after she loses the 69.5 km road race which started in Nasugbu, Batangas and ended in Tagaytay City. **4.** For answered prayers, Rubilen Amit offers one up as she plays billiards against a Singaporean to get her first gold at the Makati Coliseum. **5.** Beauties at the Alabang Country Club Polo Field, Tingting Cojuangco and daughter Mikee Jaworski.

ROGER MARGALLO, ROMY HOMILLADA, JESS YUSON, RUDY ESPERAS

Molina wins 3rd swim gold . . .

From page A1

fronts, including three from the traditional boat race, one from cue artist Alex Pagulayan, one from seven-time champion John Baylon in judo and another swimming gold from Miguel Mendoza in the 1,500m freestyle, the Philippines raised its medal total to 74 golds, 52 silvers and 55 bronzes.

Thailand and defending overall champion Vietnam are neck and neck in the race for second place with the Thais posting a 46-53-73 tally and the Vietnamese lurking at 46-46-53.

Most bemedalled

Counting his earlier victories in the 400m and 200m individual medleys, Molina stands a good chance of becoming the most bemedalled athlete of the Games. He is also entered in today's 200m freestyle, where he's the reigning titlist, and the 4x100m medley relay.

"I don't want to expect anything. I don't want to put any pressure on myself but I will try my best to win as many medals as possible," said the Athens Olympian, whose efforts enabled the Filipino swimmers to surpass their three-gold output in the 2003 Vietnam SEAG.

Pagulayan thwarted compatriot Lee Vann Corteza, 9-6, in the all-Filipino 8-ball singles finals at the Makati Coliseum last night to match the three gold output of Molina, rower Benjamin Tolentino Jr. and diver Shiela Mae Perez and assure the Philippines of the billiards and snooker championships with seven golds, including Rubilen Amit's victory in the women's 8-ball singles late Thursday night.

Improving on its 1-gold, 1-silver finish in Vietnam, the Philippines traditional boat team ruled the men's 10- a-side 1,000m and 20-a-side 1,000m and the women's 10-a-side 1,000m at the La Mesa Dam in Quezon City.

On the mark

The shooters also found their mark as Paul Brian Rosario topped the men' individual skeet with 134 points, nipping Malaysia's Cheong Yew Kwan 134 for the gold at the PNSA clay target range in Muntinlupa City.

Coupled with Patricio Bernardo's 109, the Philippines also took the team gold with a 337 total, besting Malaysia's 333.

SEA Games ambassador Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla yielded the gold medal to Malaysia's Hasli Izwan Amir Hasan in the 25m rapid fire pistol event.

Equestrienne Toni Leviste led the Philippines to a gold medal finish in the showjumping team event at the Alabang Country Club polo field.

The 32-year-old Leviste, with teammates Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Joker Arroyo and Juan Ramon Lanza, claimed the top spot with a total of 13 points.

Aboard her chestnut mare Maktub, Leviste was the only rider among 19 competitors to clear the two-round championship. Malaysia was a distant second with 24 points.

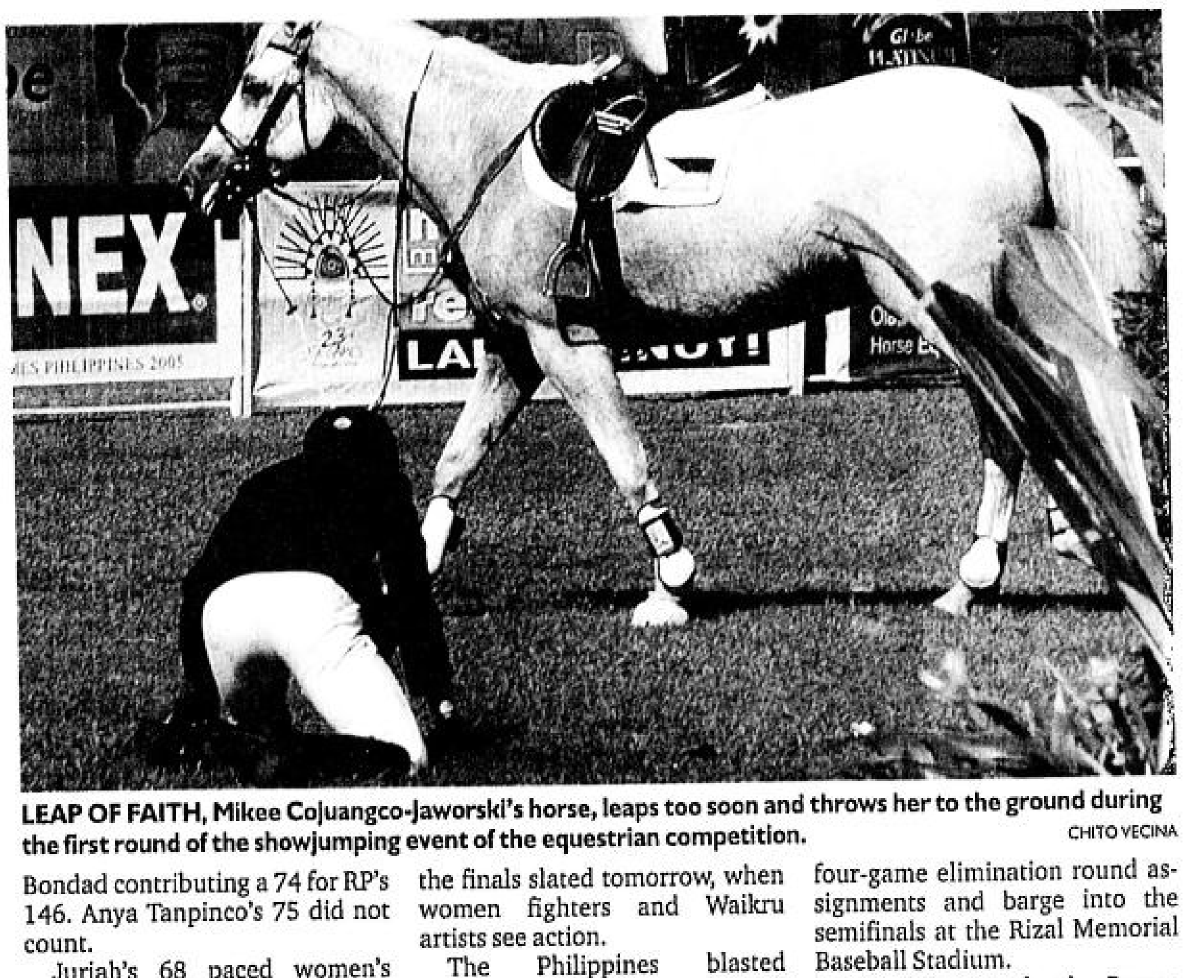
Leap of Faith trips

The Philippines had quite a scare in the first round when Cojuangco-Jaworski, the Busan Asian Games gold medalist and Philippine flag bearer in the opening ceremonies, fell off Leap of Faith after the 18-year-old grey mare tripped on an obstacle. She was unhurt and managed to finish the day's competitions. Team officials declared her fit for Sunday's completion of competitions.

In Canlubang, Laguna, defending champion Juvic Pagunsan fired a second straight one-under 69 to gain a tie for the individual lead and power the Philippines to the top of men's team play in the golf competitions at The Country Club .

Pagunsan birdied his last two holes to catch Singaporean dark horse Choo Tze Huang, who shot a 71, at 138. Marvin Dumandan also shot a 69 and Jay Bayron netted a 72 for a 210 total which shoved the Filipinos in the company of the Singaporeans, who amassed 214, at 424.

The local women trailed by two after their opening round yesterday with Jayvie Marie Agojo scoring a level 72 and Frances Bondad contributing a 74 for RP's 146. Anya Tanpinco's 75 did not count.



LEAP OF FAITH, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski's horse, leaps too soon and throws her to the ground during the first round of the showjumping event of the equestrian competition. CHITO VECINA

Juriah's 68 paced women's play as Indonesia tied reigning titlist Thailand for the team lead at 144.

Reigning world champion Brent Velasco subdued Xanxai Boonthavy of Laos in the men's bantamweight eliminations to gain the gold medal round of muay thai at the GSIS Gym in Pasay City.

Velasco joins fellow RP fighters Zaidi Laruan and Roland Claro in the finals slated tomorrow, when women fighters and Waikru artists see action.

The Philippines blasted Malaysia, 15-0, in the softball competition and arranged a title showdown with defending champion Indonesia at the Rosario Sports Arena in Pasig City.

In the women's division, the Blu Girls scored back-to-back shutout wins over Indonesia and Singapore, 7-0 and 3-0, respectively.

In baseball, the Filipinos blasted Thailand, 10-0, to sweep their four-game elimination round assignments and barge into the semifinals at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

The Philippines battles Burma (Myanmar) in today's semifinals at 10:30 a.m. Indonesia, 6-5 winner over Burma yesterday, clashes with Thailand in the other semifinal at 2 p.m.

Over in Bacolod City, Arland Macasieb settled for the bronze in men's triathlon with a time of 1:04:26.38. Singapore's Cheng Jing Hean topped the event in 1:02:02.28.

Militant group accuses gov't of rights abuses

A LEFTIST ACTIVIST GROUP YESTERDAY ACcused the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo of using political killings to eliminate its opponents and maintain power.

Karapatan, which is opposed to the Arroyo administration, said 2005 was one of the worst years for human rights abuses in the Philippines since the days of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in 1986.

In its "Human Rights Report 2005," the nongovernmental organization accused the Arroyo administration of the "wanton use of repression and state terror" to stay in power.

Karapatan said it had documented 874 cases of rights violations against 99,011 individuals across the country between January and Nov. 30.

The release of its report comes a day after the murder of journalist George Benaojan, 27, who was gunned down in the central island of Cebu on Thursday.

He became the 10th journalist to have been murdered in the Philippines this year and the 73rd journalist murdered in the country since democracy was restored following the overthrow of Marcos.

Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez said the number of political killings of journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders and community leaders "surpasses that of any regime after martial law."

"The number of cases of political killings increased by more than 100 percent compared to the 63 victims in 2004," the report said.

"Of the 150 victims of political killings, 80 were confirmed activists critical of the Arroyo regime.

"The remaining 68 were not known to be affiliated with any political party or organization but were suspected by the military to be sympathizers, supporters, friends or relatives of Communist or Muslim rebels."

The group also cited the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, which says 36 journalists have been murdered since Arroyo came to power in 2001.

"In almost all cases of political assassinations and extrajudicial killings, military elements and or paramilitary death squads and vigilante groups were the primary suspects. To date, none of the killings under the Arroyo regime has been solved," Enriquez said.

The government could not immediately be contacted for comment, but it has previously said such charges are overblown, often by leftist groups with ties to communist guerrillas.

AFP

'Wag igaya
kay Garci
ang Pinoy
na Atleta

WE'RE NO CHEATS

ERIK ARAZAS

Members of the militant group Akbayan rally in front of the Thailand Embassy in Makati to protest allegations by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and other Thai officials of cheating in the ongoing 23rd Southeast Asian Games. The protesters said the accusations were an insult to Filipino athletes.

Guingona bewails efforts to stop people's court'

By Norman Bordadora

FIRST THEY KILLED THE IMPEACHMENT complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo. Now, they want the citizens to stop hearing evidence of her alleged wrongdoing.

This is former Vice President Teofisto Guingona's beef against five senior members of the House of Representatives who want the Supreme Court to stop his Citizens' Congress from conducting any more "hearings" regarding allegations of electoral fraud, graft and corruption, and human rights violations against the President.

"To this harassment suit, we have only one defense: the Philippine Constitution," Guingona said.

Guingona is the chair of Citizens' Congress for Truth and Accountability that has been conducting public hearings ostensibly to receive – both documentary and testimonial – of President Arroyo's alleged offenses.

"First they kill the impeachment complaint on a technicality. Then they clip Congress' oversight powers via (Executive Order) 464. Now they want to prevent the people from having direct access to the evidence through a court order. That's too much," Guingona told a news conference.

In a petition filed on Nov. 18, Reps. Simeon Datumanong (Maguindanao), Luis Villafuerte (Camarines Sur), Salacnib Baterina (Ilocos Sur), Douglas Cagas (Davao del Sur) and Mauricio Domogan (Baguio) asked the Supreme Court to stop the CCTA's hearings.

Don't ignore HIV-AIDS threat, health execs warn

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANAUE, IFUGAO—THE PHILIPPINES should not ignore the threat of HIV-AIDS because being a tourist destination, it is vulnerable to infection, reproductive health officials and advocates have warned.

Chi Vallido, deputy executive director of the Philippine NGO Council for Health, Environment and Development, said the HIV-AIDS scare should be given attention.

"[The Philippines] used to boast that the prevalence of HIV-AIDS here is 'low and slow.' But now, it is categorized as a country with 'hidden and growing' cases," Vallido said at a forum here on Wednesday.

"We fear this scenario because people living with HIV-AIDS will suffer from greater stigma and hide. [If they do that], we will not be able to give them the services they need," she said.

Vallido said even small towns classified as tourist spots should strengthen measures to prevent the disease from spreading.

"We have to tell the people that they cannot just associate condom use with family planning. It is the only means of protecting people from sexually transmitted infections," she said.

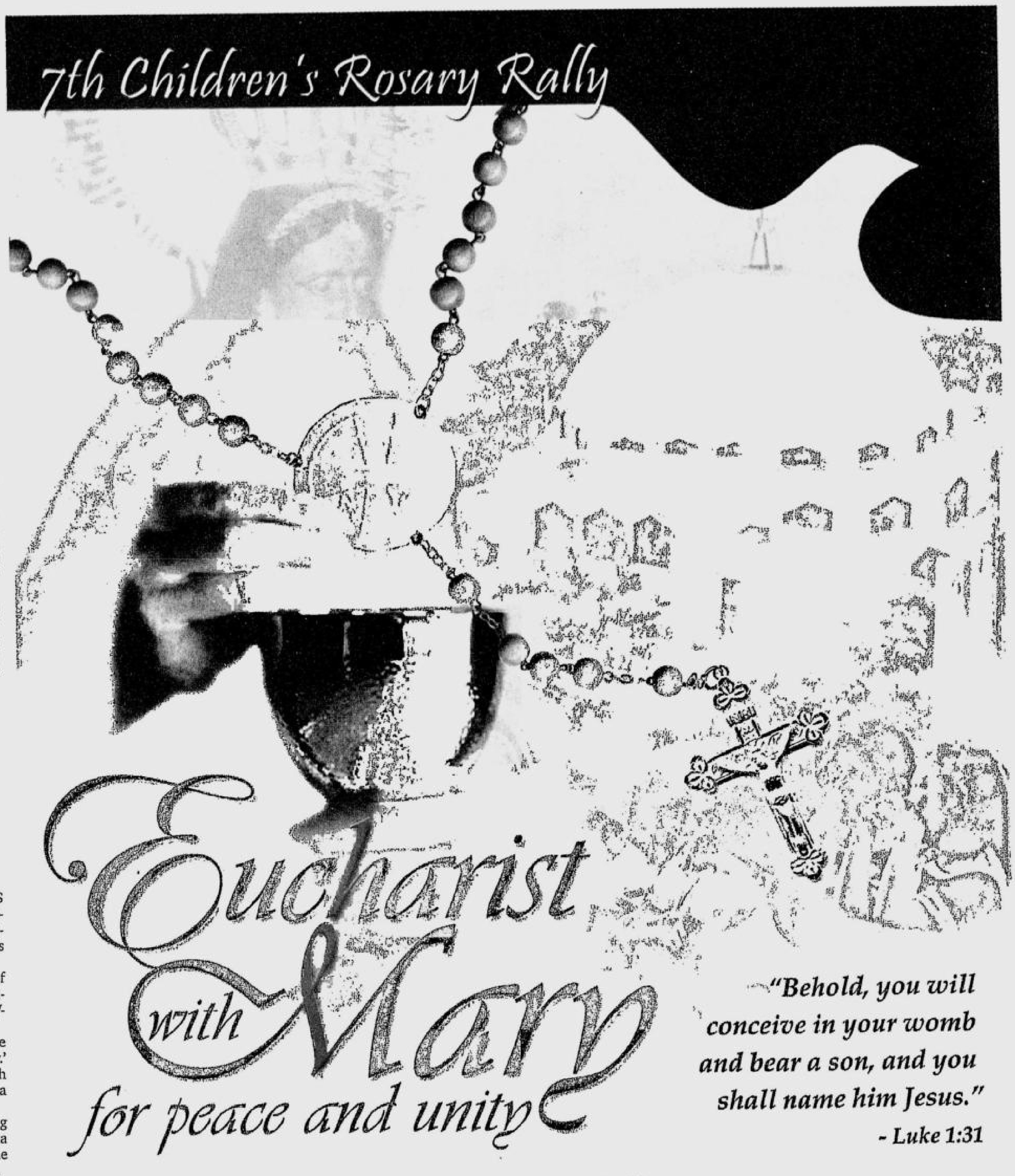
Dr. Amelita Pangilinan, medical officer of the Department of Health in the Cordillera, said the DOH had recorded two HIV-positive cases this year in the mountain resort city of Baguio, one of the country's top tourist destinations.

Six cases were recorded in the region last year.

"Over the past 10 years, the reproductive health status of our women, men and children in the Cordillera has improved, but at a very low and slow pace, not at the rate that we desire," Pangilinan said.

She said the 2004 family planning survey by the National Statistics Office showed that the region's contraceptive prevalence rate was 53 percent compared to the national rate of 49.3 percent.

"The good news is that the use of modern contraceptive methods has increased to more than 30 percent compared to the use of traditional methods, which is less than 20 percent," Pangilinan said.


7th Children's Rosary Rally
Eucharist with Mary
for peace and unity
"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."
- Luke 1:31

Today, children from the Archdiocese of Manila, in conjunction with the 7th Children's Rosary Rally, will hold a pilgrimage for peace and unity at the historic Cathedral Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Antipolo City. They will be joined by other children together with their bishops, priests, parents and teachers from 9:30 to 11:30 am in their respective parishes nationwide to simultaneously pray the Holy Rosary and celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

This year, the 7th Children's Rosary Rally coincides with the culmination of the National Eucharistic Marian Year Celebration of the Archdiocese of Manila.

Watch the *"Eucharist with Mary"* TV Special on ANC on December 8 at 11:00 pm and December 10 at 6:00 pm.

Archdiocese of Manila
CHILDREN'S ROSARY MOVEMENT
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Australian's hapless battle to save life ends at gallows

SINGAPORE—A YOUNG AUSTRALIAN HEROIN SMUGGLER'S LEGAL and diplomatic battle to avoid execution ended swiftly Friday when he was hanged in a Singapore prison after all appeals were exhausted.

"Everything is over," Singaporean human rights lawyer M. Ravi declared outside the prison at 6 a.m.—the usual time of executions here—as church bells tolled in Nguyen Tuong Van's home city Melbourne.

Dozens of journalists waited outside the suburban jail to await word of the execution, but in the end it was a brief e-mailed press statement that confirmed the 25-year-old ethnic Vietnamese prisoner had been hanged at dawn.

"It takes six minutes altogether for them to fracture his neck," said Ravi, who defended Shanmugam Murugesu, a former Singapore national sportsman and soldier hanged in May for marijuana trafficking.

About a dozen sympathizers and anti-execution campaigners prayed silently and left lighted candles on a sidewalk next to a prison sign with the motto: "Security, Humanity, Rehabilitation."

Witnesses later saw Nguyen's body, wrapped in a white shroud, being carried on an orange stretcher into a funeral home for embalming prior to a Roman Catholic service at a convent chapel.

An Australian diplomat said his body was expected to arrive on an early Sunday flight in Melbourne.

Singaporean activists are now campaigning for the abolition of the death penalty in the Southeast Asian financial and technological center, whose continued use of hanging has been denounced as a "barbaric" practice.

The newly formed Singapore Anti-Death Penalty Committee said "we cannot allow the state to calculatedly kill, in cold blood, prisoners it already has incarcerated and incapacitated."

"Singapore can do better than this," it said.

Human rights watchdog Amnesty International said 420 people were executed in Singapore between 1991 and 2004, which it described as a "shocking number" for a nation of just over four million people.

The government says eight Singaporeans and foreigners were executed in 2004 and 19 in 2003.

Based on previous accounts, executions are usually conducted with the prisoner shackled and hooded before a noose is put round his neck and a hangman pulls a lever to release a trapdoor, snapping the neck as the body drops.

The prison is located close to Changi Airport, where Nguyen was arrested for heroin smuggling in December 2002 while in transit from Cambodia to Australia.

With almost 400 grams of pure heroin strapped to his body, Nguyen confessed he agreed to be a drug mule to help pay off his twin brother Khoa's debts and his lawyers said he cooperated with police.

But Singapore law states that possession of any amount beyond 15 grams is punishable by a mandatory death sentence, carried out only by hanging.

After rejecting repeated clemency appeals by Australian Prime Minister John Howard's government, Singapore authorities also declined Nguyen's mother Kim's final wish to hug her son one last time.

The only exception they made was to allow her and Khoa to hold hands with the prisoner during their last visit Thursday, which Howard called a "clinical response" that left him "particularly disappointed." *AFP*

我·…
雖然死了，也必復活
我的人，必永遠不死
AND THE LIFE
HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME
HE MAY DIE,
LIVE.
:25
CT SING
ERVICES

THE BODY of Nguyen Tuong Van in a funeral parlor where it was taken to be dressed before being transferred to a chapel for an afternoon Mass in Singapore Dec. 2.
REUTERS

US bent for executions fed by crime, tradition

By Michael Conlon

CHICAGO—ONE OF THE HIGHEST murder rates in the world, a tradition of frontier justice and unwavering faith in biblical retribution have helped keep the death penalty alive in the United States even as much of the modern world has rejected it, experts on the subject say.

In the face of international scorn and a trend that has seen a record 105 countries halt capital punishment, America has continued to embrace it, accounting along with China, Iran and Vietnam, for most of the world's known executions.

KENNETH LEE BOYD AP

Convicted killer Kenneth Lee Boyd early on Friday became the 1,000th person to be executed since the country re-legalized the process in 1976 after a 10-year hiatus. Before then, starting from 1608 in colonial days, the land that became the United States recorded more than 14,000 legal executions—and unknown additional numbers at the hands of vigilantes.

"The first thing is that compared to Europe, we have a much higher homicide rate," said Tom Smith of the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center. Polls have clearly demonstrated that popular support for capital punishment rises and falls as homicide rates do, he said.

While the US rate is down from recent years, it is still among the highest in the world, behind a number of countries that include Russia, South Africa, Colombia and Mexico.

Other factors are harder to quantify, Smith said, but one seems to be that the country has the largest concentration of evangelistic Christians "who believe in sin and the punishment of sin, and that capital punishment is biblically ordained."

"That tradition is stronger in the United States than any European country," he said, and it accompanies a frontier tradition of "swift and sure justice to deal with criminals ... You catch a cattle rustler, you string him up."

That fits with a strong sense of individualism—that people themselves and not society are to blame for the bad things they do, he added.

It is much harder to prove that racism is involved, Smith said, though statistics show blacks are on death row in numbers far disproportionate to the nearly 14 percent of US society they make up.

But Deanne Bonner, clinical professor of social work at Boston University, said the country's "history of racism" is a strong influence.

"There are many people who believe that capital punishment has replaced lynching ... the vast majority of those executed are African-American males," she said.

"It's not just racism but our failure to deal with the institutionalization of racism," as seen in education and poverty, she said. "It leads to seeing people who commit crimes as ... less human" and immigration history has also "left us with a more fragmented sense of our common humanity."

Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson agrees, telling Reuters the US system is "stacked against people who are poor or black or brown ... Jesus was a victim of capital punishment. A flawed system killed an innocent man. Let's make every Christian think." *Reuters*

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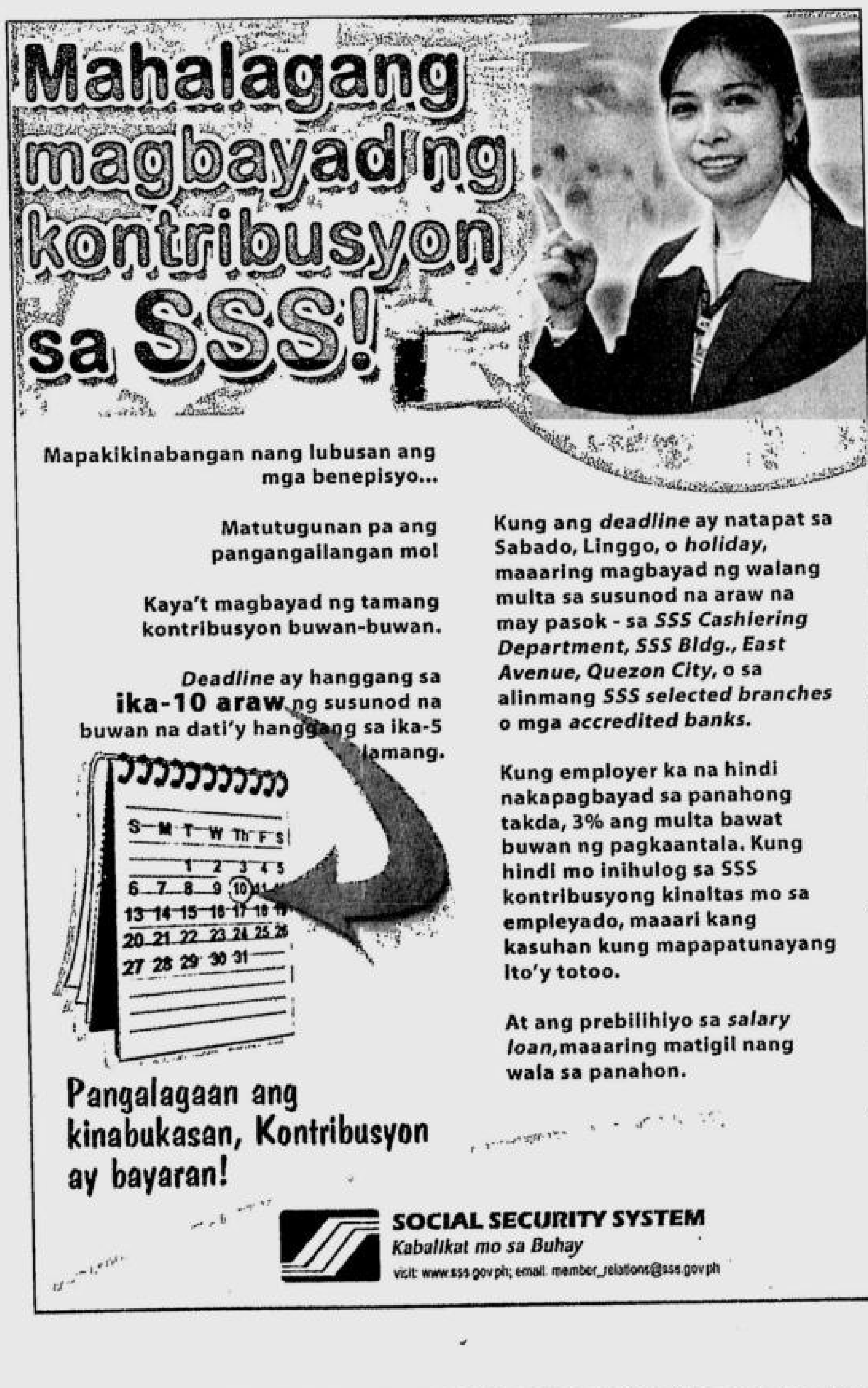
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Envoy bares India ex-FM's role in Iraq oil scam

NEW DELHI—A SERVING INDIAN ambassador accused India's former foreign minister Natwar Singh Friday of being involved in a scam to profit from a UN oil-for-food deal in Iraq.

The comments aired on Aaj Tak television sparked chaos in parliament and calls for Singh to be prosecuted.

Anil Maithrani, who worked closely with Singh in the Congress Party before being posted to Croatia, said Singh had received a special voucher to purchase oil cheaply from Baghdad.

"The Iraqi Embassy in Amman was a very key player. The Iraqis needed a green light, the green light was provided to them by Natwar Singh," said Maithrani.

"One (oil voucher) was given to him (Singh) by name the other one was given to the Congress party," during a visit to Iraq in January 2001.

Singh led a four-member team to Iraq which included Maithrani.

"The fact of the matter is that both allotees ... in my view are exactly the same ... one has been to Natwar and the other one to the Congress Party.

"One for Natwar's personal services. Don't forget that he has been the one who has been espousing Iraq's cause," said Maithrani.

According to a report submitted by former US Federal Reserve chair Paul Volcker to the UN in October, former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's regime manipulated the oil-for-food program to extract about $1.8 billion in surcharges and bribes.

Volcker named Singh as a non-contractual beneficiary of four million barrels of Iraqi oil allotted to Zurich-based firm Masefield AG.

Congress, India's oldest political entity, is also listed as a beneficiary of a separate allotment of four million barrels of oil as part of the transactions.

Singh, who has consistently denied any wrongdoing, was stripped of his foreign ministry portfolio last month when the scandal surfaced, but was retained as a minister without portfolio in the Cabinet.

The Indian government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the allegations.

In the upper house on Friday former Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh, now in the opposition, pointed a finger at Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"The Prime Minister is also the Leader of the House ... he has given a clean certificate to Natwar Singh," Jaswant Singh said.

In the lower house, Bharatiya Janata Party leader Lal Krishna Advani, spearheaded the opposition attack.

"Anil Maithrani cannot be knowing more than Natwar Singh knows or what the Congress party knows," said Advani.

"Natwar Singh exploited the invitation to the Congress party ... we have been told that the Prime Minister will be making a statement after the disclosures of Maithrani.

"I feel this is an outrageous insult to the house and the nation," Advani said.

"I do not want Natwar Singh to be made a scapegoat of the scam. He has to go. But the whole Congress party is involved in it," he charged.

Both houses were adjourned amid uproar till later in the afternoon. *AFP*

Iraq insurgency strong, could get stronger, says study

By Peter Mackler

WASHINGTON—DESPITE US CLAIMS OF progress in quelling the insurgency in Iraq, it remains as robust as ever and could grow a good deal stronger, according to a new study released Thursday.

The study by two veteran defense analysts working for the Washington Institute for Near East Policy also said the US operation in Iraq was at a "tipping point" that will last for six to nine months.

"I think the outcome of this tipping period is probably going to dictate whether or not the US effort in Iraq succeeds or fails," analyst Jeffrey White said at a lunch unveiling the report.

The study said the insurgency, comprised of nationalists, members of Saddam Hussein's toppled regime and foreign Islamic fighters, showed no sign of losing steam 32 months after the US-led invasion.

"Although thousands of insurgents have been killed and tens of thousands of Iraqis have been detained ... incident and casualty data reinforce the impression that the insurgency is as robust and lethal as ever," it said.

Moreover, the researchers said, the insurgency has managed to exploit only a fraction of the disgruntled minority Sunni Muslim population with any kind of military training.

"Should the insurgency succeed in exploiting this untapped potential, it could greatly increase its military capabilities," they wrote.

The report was prepared by White, who spent 34 years at the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and Michael Eisenstadt, a former civilian-miltary analyst with the US army.

The tone contrasted with the assertion in the "national strategy for victory in Iraq" unveiled by President George W. Bush on Wednesday that US forces were making "significant progress" in containing the insurgency.

Eisenstadt and White said the war in Iraq was still winnable, but added that the fight "will be protracted and costly, and is likely to be punctuated by additional setbacks."

US officials cited by the report estimated that the Sunni insurgency counted up to 20,000 members, including 3,500 active fighters. White told AFP the total number of supporters could top 100,000.

While Washington has billed Iraq as the central front in its war on terror, White said foreign jihadists represented only 5-7 percent of the insurgency and did not account for the majority of attacks or fatalities.

But he said the anti-American forces were making extensive use of religion and, in a new development, former members of Saddam's largely secular regime were identifying increasingly with the Islamists.

"There is some kind of merging going on," White told the lunchtime audience. "Whether this is a marriage of convenience or a marriage of commitment remains to be seen."

The report said the insurgency had no hierarchy, but was a "web of networks" drawing financial support from inside and outside Iraq. It said support from Syria and Iran was "not insignificant" but not essential.

"The insurgency has access to all the weapons, explosives, financial resources, and trained manpower it needs, in amounts sufficient to sustain current activity levels indefinitely—assuming continued Sunni political support," it said.

The analysts said the insurgents had scored "important tactical and operational successes" while establishing themselves as a major force in the Sunni community and sowing doubts in the United States about the continued presence of 160,000 US troops.

"This isn't just random activity or terrorist activity," White said. "The insurgents are actually conducting a purposeful kind of strategy in Iraq and are trying to counter the very kinds of things that we're trying to do."

But the report noted the insurgents were vulnerable on several counts, lacking a unified leadership and unqualified support from many Sunnis, and tarred by the brutality of the jihadists' attacks on civilians. *AFP*

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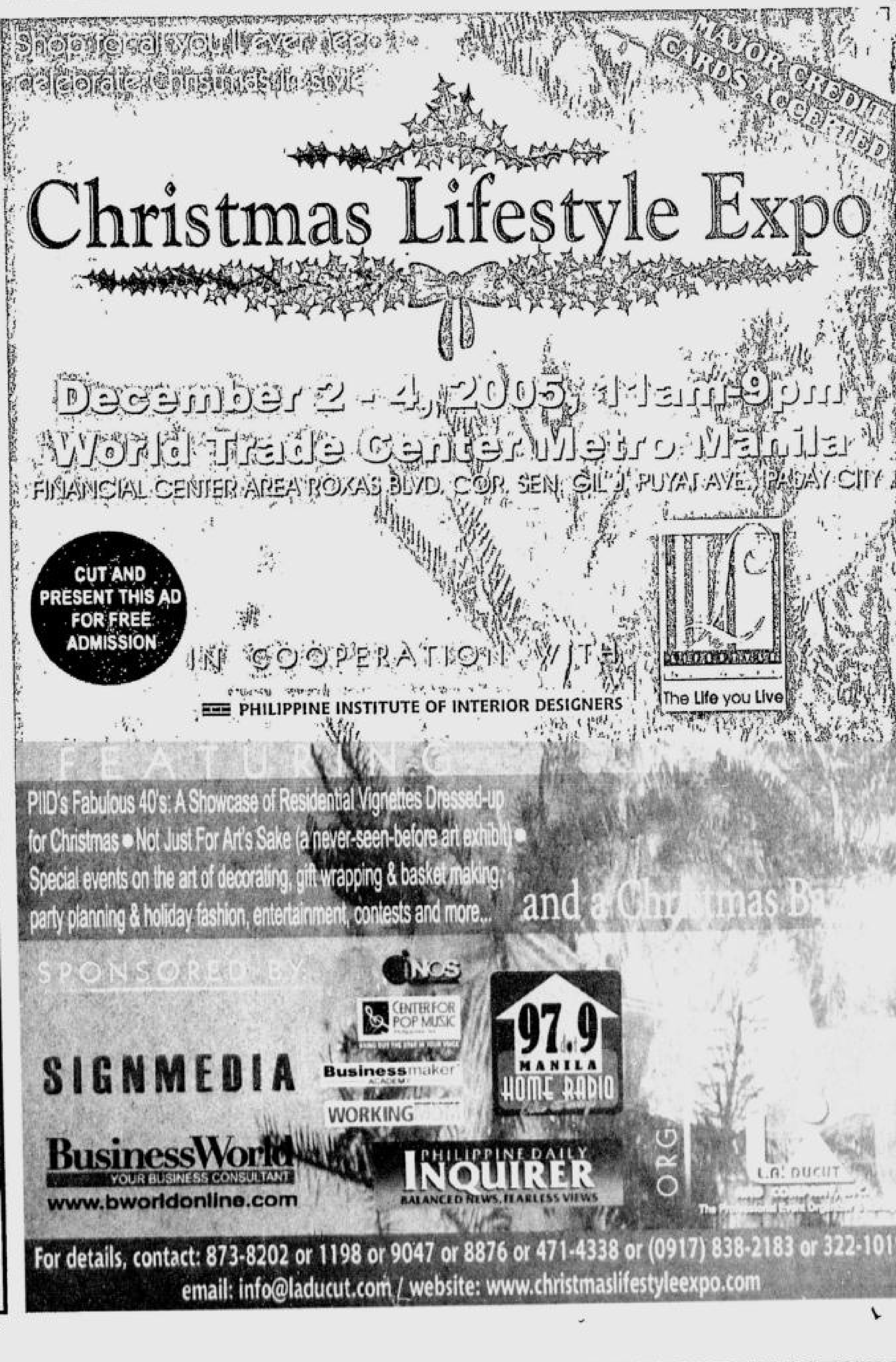
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Justification for US escalation of Vietnam war faulty, declassified documents disclose

WASHINGTON—A JUST-RELEASED SPY-agency analysis contends a second attack on US ships in the Gulf of Tonkin never happened, which casts further doubt on the main rationale for escalation of the Vietnam War.

Much as faulty US intelligence preceded the invasion of Iraq, the mishandling of intercepted communications 40 years earlier is blamed in a National Security Agency paper released Thursday for giving President Lyndon B. Johnson carte blanche to wage war in Vietnam.

The agency put out more than 140 long-secret documents in response to requests from researchers trying to get to the bottom of an episode that unfolded in the South China Sea on Aug. 4, 1964, and has been disputed since.

Among the documents is an article written by one of the agency's historians for its classified publication, Cryptologic Quarterly, which declared that his review of the complete intelligence shows beyond doubt "no attack happened that night."

Claims that North Vietnamese boats attacked two warships that Aug. 4, just two days after an initial assault on one of the ships, rallied Congress behind Johnson's buildup of the war. The Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which passed three days later, empowered Johnson to take "all necessary steps" in the region and opened the way for large-scale commitment of US forces.

"The parallels between the faulty intelligence on Tonkin Gulf and the manipulated intelligence used to justify the Iraq war make it all the more worthwhile to reexamine the events of August 1964 in light of new evidence," said researcher John Prados.

Prados is a specialist on the Gulf of Tonkin at George Washington University's National Security Archive, which is not affiliated with the National Security Agency and which pressed for release of the documents through Freedom of Information requests and other means.

The article, by NSA historian Robert J. Hanyok, reviews signals intelligence, or SIGINT, from that time and concludes top administration officials were given only material that supported the claim of an Aug. 4 attack, not the wealth of contradictory intelligence. His study was published in 2001 and does not necessarily reflect the agency's position.

"In truth, Hanoi's navy was engaged in nothing that night but the salvage of two of the boats damaged on 2 August," Hanyok wrote.

He said "the handful of SIGINT reports which suggested that an attack had occurred contained severe analytical errors, unexplained translation changes, and the conjunction of two unrelated messages into one translation. This latter product would become the Johnson administration's main proof of the Aug. 4 attack."

He said he did not find "manufactured evidence and collusion at all levels"; rather, it appeared intelligence-gatherers had made a series of mistakes and their superiors did not set the record straight.

Conflicting and confused reports from the scene have long cast doubt on whether the events unfolded as claimed.

Hanyok's analysis of previously top secret intelligence adds insight on North Vietnam's communications from that time. They showed, he said, that the supposed attackers did not even know the location of the destroyers, the USS Maddox and C. Turner Joy, as the two ships patrolled off the North Vietnam coast.

Indeed, a shorter agency study done years earlier and also released Thursday indicated the ships did not know what, if anything, was coming at them as they zigzagged to evade what the crews feared were torpedoes, and as they fired on targets identified by radar.

That study concluded with a wry note, saying the destroyers resumed their patrols after a heavy round of US air strikes on North Vietnam ports, "and the rest is just painful history."

A detailed chronology assembled days after the episode for the Joint Chiefs of Staff by J.J. Merrick, commander of Destroyer Division 192, reflected the uncertainty of that night.

It said that sonar in many cases picked up sounds that were believed to have been torpedoes but turned out to be "self noise"—the beating of the ships' own propellers, or noise from patrol boats or supporting planes that were strafing the dark sea in cloudy skies, unable to see any prey.

AP

FURIOUS EARTH

Land measuring 17.6 hectares at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is seen falling into the ocean, Nov. 28, exposing a 60-foot cliff and a 6-foot in diameter stream of lava shooting from the cliff face. The glowing lava has since formed a ramp of new land as it continues to pour out into the ocean. AP

Expert says Vioxx can trigger heart attack in a month

HOUSTON—LAWYERS FOR Merck & Co. were expected to cross-examine an expert witness on Friday over his belief that the company's former blockbuster pain drug Vioxx can cause heart attacks and can trigger an event in less than a month.

Wayne Ray, who studies the risks and benefits of drugs, told jurors on Thursday that he reached his conclusions after analyzing numerous studies, including the one that pushed Merck to removed Vioxx from the market last year after tests showed it doubled patients risk of heart attacks after 18 months.

"The totality of the evidence clearly indicates that Vioxx causes heart attacks," said Ray, who heads the Pharmaco-Epidemiology department at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Jurors will be asked to decide if Vioxx contributed to the fatal heart attack Richard "Dicky" Irvin suffered in May 2001. The 53-year-old manager of a seafood distributor had been taking the drug for about a month to alleviate back pain when his colleagues found him dead at his desk.

Irvin's widow, Evelyn Irvin Plunkett, is suing Merck, which has scored a loss in Texas and a win on its home turf of New Jersey in the first two state-level Vioxx cases.

Merck faces about 7,000 state and federal lawsuits, and analysts have estimated its liability could reach $50 billion (euro42.57 billion).

The brief duration of Irvin's Vioxx use is expected to be a big issue in the case, with Merck arguing that the drug only showed signs of problems after 18 months.

Ray said he examined two epidemiological studies of patients taking Vioxx for 30 days or less. One found the drug increased patients' likelihood of having a heart attack one and a half times while the other found an elevated risk of nearly threefold.

AP

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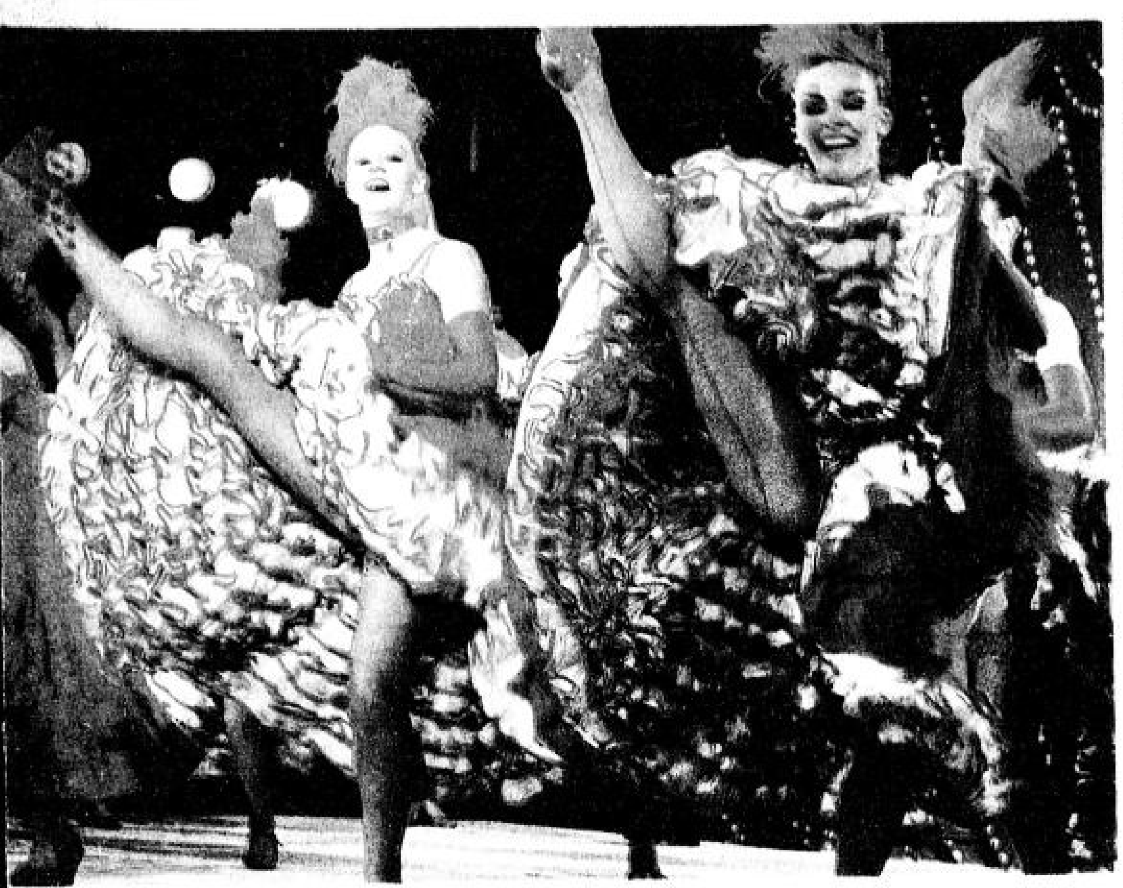


MOULIN ROUGE
French dancers from Paris' popular cabaret "Moulin Rouge" perform at a Gala Dinner hosted by the Alliance Francaise de Bombay, in Mumbai Dec. 1. Some 20 dancers came to the Indian financial capital to promote the cultural and historical significance of Moulin Rouge. The dancers were scheduled to perform at special events in Mumbai and New Delhi, organized by the Alliance Francaise. AFP

Wives of detained Islamists 'ready to be suicide bombers'

RABAT—WIVES OF SEVERAL ISLAMIST DEtainees in Belgium are ready to commit suicide attacks, one detainee has told investigators in Morocco, according to police minutes seen by AFP on Thursday.

The detainee, Moroccan-Belgian Mohamed Reha, said there were more "sisters" in Belgium ready to undertake jihad (holy war) operations, after the first suicide attack by a European woman in Iraq in early November.

On Wednesday, French and Belgian police took in 15 people close to the first female bomber, a Belgian woman who blew herself up near Baghdad.

Reza, 18, told investigators he was deported from Syria in June 2005, where he had been attending a religious school before meeting jihadist leaders.

He then returned to Belgium, where he was contacted on his mobile phone by the wife of detainee Rachid Iba, who told him about the other would-be bombers.

"She told me to come to Brussels to meet her and we met in a station," he told Moroccan investigators, according to the police minutes.

"She told me there were sisters in Belgium, the wives of Islamists detained in this country, who were ready to undertake any jihad operation," he said.

"She asked me to help them by finding a person to organize them and supply them with explosives in order to commit acts of destruction," he said, adding that the whole conversation had been conducted on pieces of paper.

Reha admitted he had promised to help the women as much as he could with their plans and contacted Algerian Khalid Abou Bassir, whom he described as the al-Qaida network's coordinator in Europe.

He created a new e-mail address as instructed by Abou Bassir and told the women that the Algerian would be leading them. *AFP*

'CRYING' MARY
A red substance that believers say is blood, drips from the eyes of a statue of the Virgin Mary on the outskirts of Sacramento, California Dec. 1. Dark streaks attributed to bloody tears on a Virgin Mary statue follow a long tradition of Catholic apparitions which, whether real or imagined, often provide solace to believers, experts said. REUTERS

Britain opens up to gay marriage

By Christophe Schmidt

LONDON—DEBBIE AND ELAINE, Roger and Percy will be among the first to break new ground in Britain, taking advantage of new laws that come into force Monday allowing them to marry their gay partners.

According to official predictions, some 22,000 people will sign so-called civil partnerships between now and 2010, giving them the same rights and privileges as married, heterosexual couples.

Britain is the fifth country to introduce legislation allowing gay unions, following Belgium, Canada, Spain and the Netherlands.

Given the legal requirement of publishing the banns, the first ceremonies are scheduled for Dec. 19 in Northern Ireland, Dec. 20 in Scotland and Dec. 21 in England.

The first ceremony itself will take place in Londonderry on Dec. 19.

The southern English seaside resort of Brighton and Westminster, in the political and tourist heart of London, both wanted to be the first in England to marry same-sex partners. Ceremonies will be held there on Dec. 21 at 8:00 a.m. on the dot.

Both places are expecting a boost to their image and also hoping to attract the financial clout of the "pink pound."

In Brighton—Britain's self-styled "gay capital" where 40,000 of its 161,000 inhabitants are homosexual—vicar Debbie Gaston will marry Elaine Cook, her companion of 16 years.

The town's local authority believes choosing a woman of the cloth will reinforce the message.

"I've had comments made on me on various fundamental Christian sites on the Internet, about how I'm going to hell," Gaston recalled with a smile recently.

"I think that perhaps they'll have a shock when they get to heaven and they see me there as well."

Westminster has opted for another symbol with Roger Lockyer, 77, and Percy Stevens, 66, who will finally be allowed to be legally united after 40 years in love.

The local Conservative-run council recognized in November "the important tradition" of homosexuality in the area, which includes the gay heart of London, Soho.

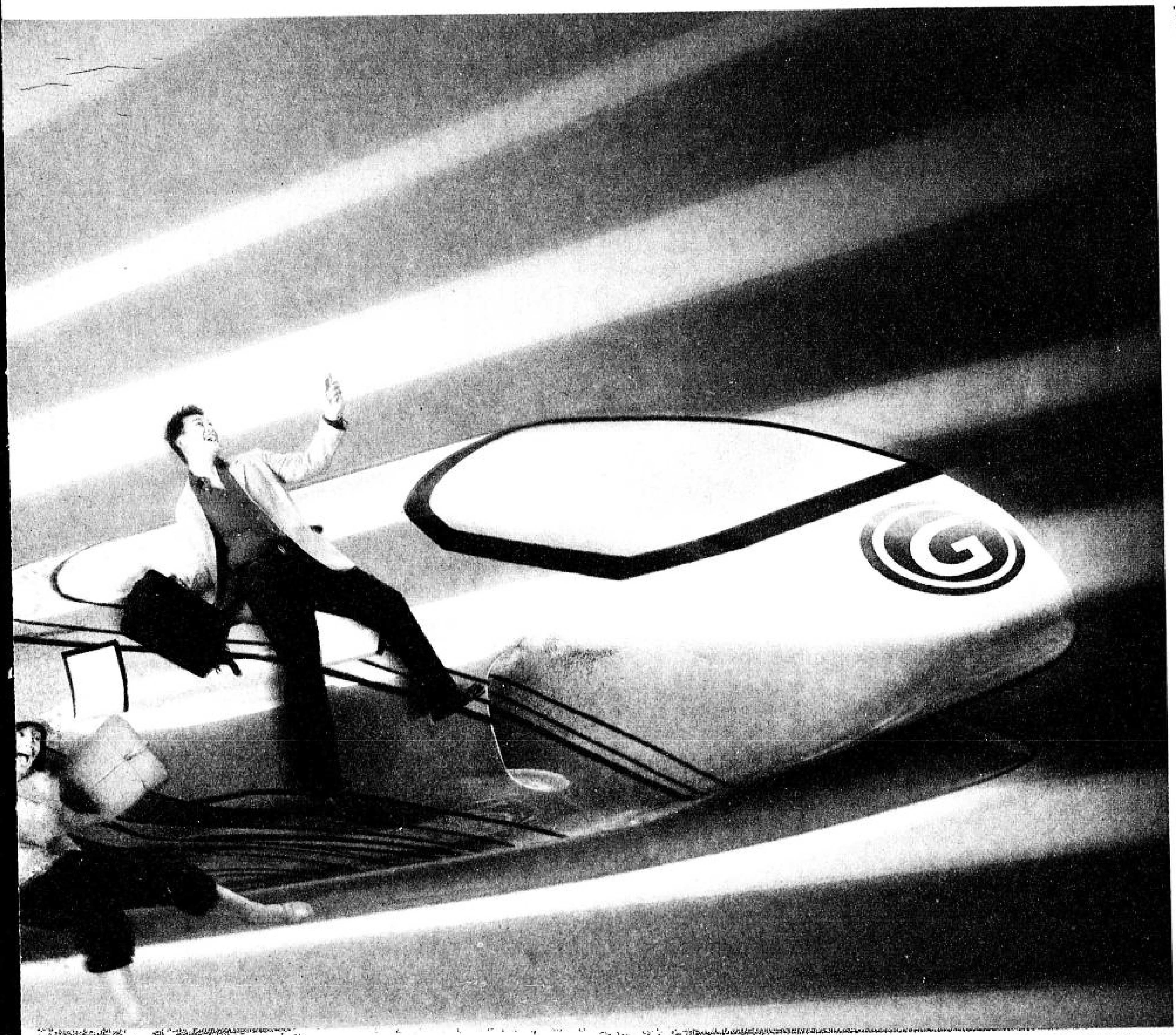
It also hastily quashed an old bylaw banning the flying of the "gay pride" rainbow-colored flag in its streets.

If the advent of gay marriage sparks little debate in Britain, it has nonetheless forced the country's religions to show their hand.

The main ones reject the idea, apart from one of the three Jewish traditions in Britain.

Religious group Liberal Judaism has even created a specific blessing, "the Covenant of Love."

"Liberal Judaism champions justice, equality, compassion and inclusion," explained Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah, rabbi at the Brighton and Hove Progressive Synagogue. *AFP*



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OPINION

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Tarnishing the gold

EDITORIAL

PRIME MINISTER THAKSIN SHINAWATRA of Thailand made waves by complaining about cheating in the Southeast Asian Games. Although he did not specifically mention the Philippines, Thaksin said he was "concerned" that the obsession with winning was getting in the way of sportsmanship.

He had nobody fooled; he was obviously reacting to a remark attributed to the head of the Thai Olympic Committee who complained that it was impossible for countries like Thailand to win in the Manila Games, because Filipinos were manipulating the result.

A storm of protest ensued, and with it, counter-accusations about the lack of sportsmanship (and allegations of dubious decisions by judges in sports events) of the Thais. President Macapagal-Arroyo was stung into ordering an "investigation," Filipino officials defended our teams, and the country was seemingly united, for once, in condemnation of the Thais.

In the end, Charouk Arirachakaran, secretary general of Thailand's Olympic Committee, issued an apology, while insisting that he never said "it is hard to win at the Games since the hosts are cheating." The quote supposedly came from statements he made to the press in Bacolod City, but the Thai sports official insists it was impossible for him to have said that, because he has yet to go there (which leaves dangling the question of how the Associated Press got the quote). Thaksin apparently simply took his cue from the press reports and without bothering to talk to Thai sports officials went ahead to slam the Philippines because that was the patriotic thing to do. It is not just Filipinos, after all, who excuse failure by pinning the blame on outsiders. Other Asians do it, too.

Obviously the lesson here is not that Filipinos per se are viewed as cheats, or that Asians are congenitally predisposed to viewing every defeat as the result of someone's having cheated (regardless of the location), but rather that the Thai prime minister could assume that everyone would view it as understandable that Philippine sports officials could be charged with cheating with impunity, because—well, simply look at their President, was what the Thai prime minister was really suggesting.

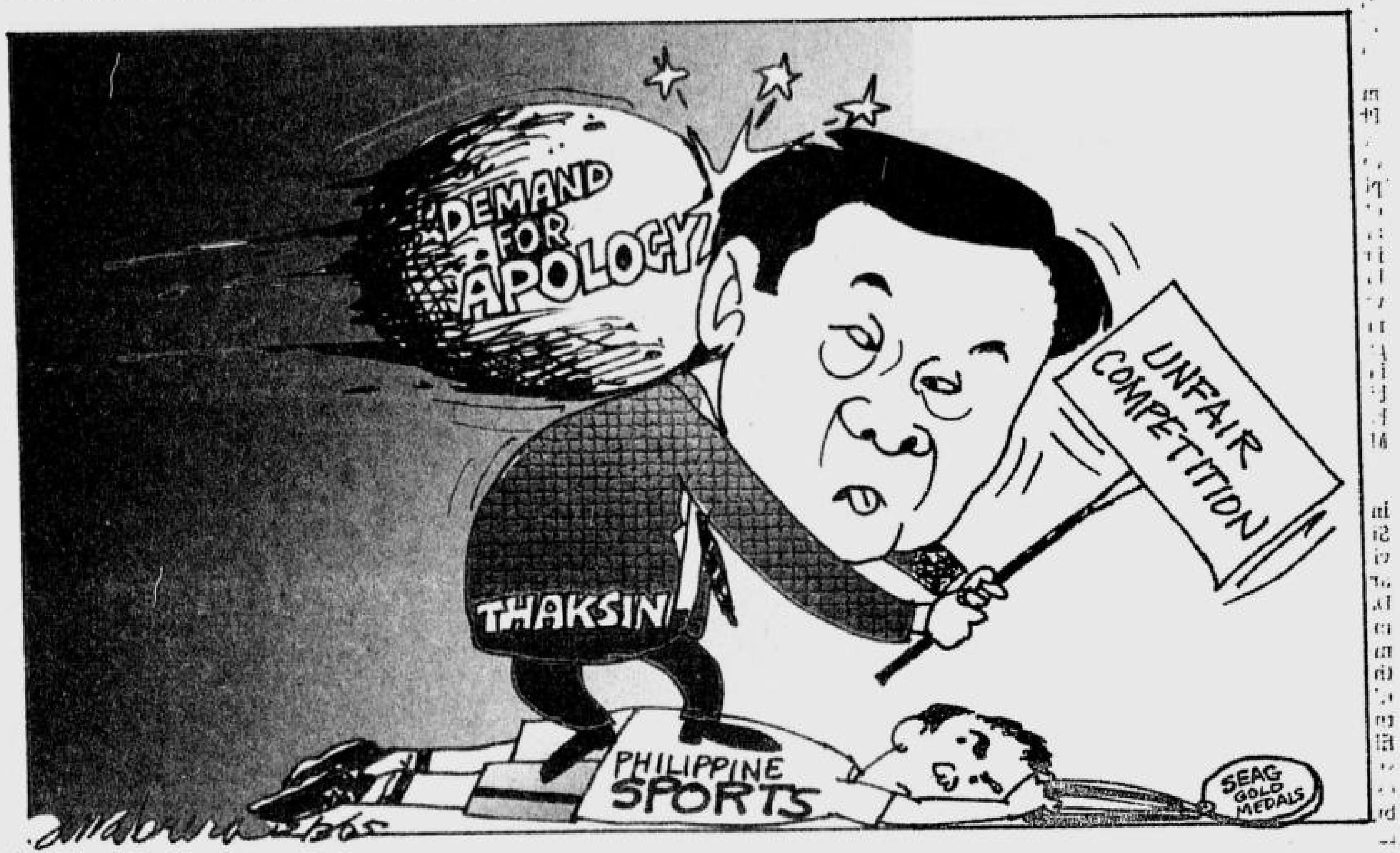
Therein lies the scandal and there lies the offensiveness of the Thai leader's remarks. That is not the Asian way, or the Asean way, and most certainly, it is not the diplomatic and responsible way to handle anything, including sports.

Indeed in the heat of the moment, when the competition is at its most intense, sportsmanship can end up by the wayside. That is what judges and the rules are for. If victory is sweet, defeat, though bittersweet, can be ennobling. An example is the case of Eduardo Buenavista, disqualified for running into the path of a competitor in the 5,000 meter race. Having been stripped of his medal, his reaction was magnificent: "That's the way it was, I ended up hitting him, after all. Well, I'll just go back to training, so that next time, I can reclaim the prize." No whining, blaming—just pure sportsmanship.

Thaksin should have kept to his "self-imposed" isolation from media, and left politics out of the Southeast Asian Games. Instead, he has made himself the Raul Gonzalez of Thailand. Left to themselves, the participants and officials have handled controversies and questions concerning the games with professionalism and integrity. The host country has deprived its athletes of medals, when the rules have been broken. And even the controversial Thai sports official, it must be added, didn't let a lot of time pass, before clarifying matters and apologizing for hurting the feelings of Filipinos.

This isn't to say that Philippine sports doesn't have its defects. Thaksin did have a point in saying the obsession with victory has diverted attention from what is the true purpose of international sports events: to promote clean and civilized competition; to promote international goodwill; to channel patriotism in a direction that exalts individual countries but also contributes to ties of affection between the citizens of those countries.

The large number of politicians intruding into sports has long been the bane of Philippine sports, from Michael Keon to the present. And so, while we salute our athletes, we should be less enthusiastic over our sports officials. After all, the nation's favorite sport, basketball, isn't even included in the SEA Games because of their bumbling.



The decline of English in this country

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I REMEMBER THAT AS A YOUNG BOY DURING the '30s of the last century, I lived through that transition period when Spanish still dominated the public signs and notices in Manila although the United States had already established firm control of its new colony and we were already studying English as the medium of instruction in all public and private schools.

The familiar influence of the old regime was still there. Restaurants were still called Ambos Mundos, El Gusto, and La Perla, where my mother enjoyed its *tocinos del cielo*. Jewelry was available at the picky La Estrella del Norte and La Elegancia. Private cars known as *berlinas* were hired for special occasions like weddings. Apartment houses were *accesorias* that were either *se vende* or *se alquila*. Walls were not blemished with graffiti and carried the stern warning *Se prohibe fijar carteles*. My favorite theater in Sampaloc was Cine Moderno, which was cooled with *ventiladores*. Fine *velos* were obligatory for ladies in church where they wore demure *vestidos*. My father smoked El Conde de Guell and other *tabacos* from the Tabacalera company. La Vanguardia and El Debate spread the news to their still numerous subscribers.

Gradually, English gained ascendancy as the common language of the students, second only to the more familiar Tagalog among the older people. The Spanish signs and notices began to be replaced in English, to be eventually understood and accepted by most of their readers. In school, we were fined one centavo every time we were caught talking in Tagalog, the proceeds to be used for a small party at the end of the semester. (There was no corruption then.) Knowledge of English soon became an occupational and even social recommendation and was especially needed in commercial transactions. A new batch of young writers and government *pensionados* who had studied in American colleges made English more agreeable.

The most obvious shift from Spanish to English was in the theaters beginning with the Manila Grand Opera House and the pre-war Capitol, Lyric, Ideal, State. Ever, Avenue, and Universal. Hundreds of new shows came out in English and even the credits of Tagalog movies were (and still are) given in English, *ewan ko kung bakit*. The *novia* before is now the g.f. who is no longer a *desgraciada* if she misses her period. The old *accesoria* is now a townhouse, and the *entresuelo, se alquiila tambien* is now passé. The unpopular law requiring 12 units in Spanish as a requirement for college graduation was repealed long ago, which is why many announcers now pronounce it Herrera with a distinct H. The *pluma* has been elbowed out by the ballpen. We now eat at the restaurant instead of the *panciteria*. It is said that one reason Quezon outpaced Osmeña as the premier leader was that he learned English ahead of the latter.

Now let us talk of the law requiring Pilipino as the medium of instruction in our public schools in lieu of American English. I have no objection to the teaching of Pilipino and in fact believe that it should be included in the curricula of all our educational institutions from the primary grades until college. It is our official language and should be respected and used as such by our people. I myself am not as proficient in it as my father, who was a distinguished writer and speaker in Tagalog, and my two brothers who could also be eloquent in the language. But I am at least quite at home in Tagalog when it comes to daily conversations, and that should be enough for me.

I think, though, that downgrading English in the process of popularizing Pilipino is unwise and even foolish. At a program where I spoke in English because of my limited formal Tagalog, my wife heard someone in the audience say I was not nationalistic. Stupid remark.

Even Rizal was more articulate in Spanish than in his native Tagalog. There was a time when we ranked third among the English-speaking countries, next only to England and the United States. Now when other people are trying to learn English as the most widely-used language in the world, we are discouraging it so we can learn more Pilipino, which is hardly known in foreign places. Many of our public announcements, especially traffic signs, continue to be in English, which are hardly understandable to most unschooled jeepney drivers.

I once traveled from my house in Parañaque City (rather than the Lungsod ng Paraniyake) to a seafood restaurant in Cavite and purposely watched the signs along the way. To my amusement, they were all in English except for only one official notice in Pilipino about income taxes. The billboards advertised eateries, resort gardens, automobile tires, air-conditioners, cosmetics, attire, and sundry others, all in English. In this country, statutes, executive pronouncements including the State of the Nation Address, and judicial decisions are all in English. Even the official and authentic copy of our Constitution is in English.

A no-win situation

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT IS OFFICIAL. THE COUNTRY'S REAL GDP growth rate for the third quarter—a period which witnessed the Hyatt 10 resignation, the impeachment proceedings and the issuance of a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the expanded VAT—was, at 4.1 percent, the slowest it has been since 2002 (when third-quarter growth was 3.8 percent).

It is not at all far-fetched to conclude that the political turbulence engendered by such events had a negative impact on the economy. And although Joey Salceda's firewall theory is comforting (he says the country's political troubles no longer have as much impact on the economy as it did during Erap's time, citing stock market and exchange rate movements), it is clear that the country's economy is still fragile and that it can ill afford political shocks, no matter how they are cushioned.

The 2005 Philippine Human Development Report estimates the economic costs of the Moro conflict, excluding the foregone output of the economy, to average P8 billion a year when the conflict is at its most intense, or roughly P2 billion a quarter. A rough back-of-the-envelope estimate of what the third quarter's political turbulence cost the economy (assuming that the political turbulence was the only new factor, and assuming that without that turbulence, the third-quarter growth rate would have been the same as the average of the past 10 years) shows that the resulting loss would be P2.3 billion for the quarter. In other words, the average cost to the country of the most intense Moro conflict is less than that of the political turbulence that took place in the third quarter.

Which is why the thought of another political circus in the middle of the fourth quarter, with Garci occupying the center ring, is dismaying. That the country's GNP showed a robust third-quarter growth rate (6.5 percent) because of the humongous increase (close to 40 percent) of "net factor income from abroad," which includes remittances from our OFWs, is not much comfort, because it suggests an increasing dependency on a phenomenon whose social costs have not yet been fully calculated.

I suppose that comfort can also be derived from the fact that the year-to-date growth rate (the GDP of the first three quarters of this year over the same period last year) of 4.6 percent is not only right on the nose as far as independent forecasts of the economic growth rate is concerned, but also is above the forecast Asian (excluding India and China) average growth rate. In other words, the country is no longer the sick man of Asia.

But we can—and should—do better. Some very painful reforms have been taken, albeit slowly, and let's face it, we have a lot of catching up to do.

What makes matters worse about the Garci circus is that one is not even sure what benefits the country as a whole will derive from it. To be sure, private benefits galore will be reaped—by those who will have their 15 minutes of fame (or longer, with the right spin) in the media spotlight, and thus have their awareness rating (the percentage of the public who are aware of them) increase, for that name-recall factor that is so important in elections. As one young, up-and-coming and very cynical politician remarked, it doesn't matter if you are cast as villain or hero, what is important is that people know your name.

Some of those who are eager to hear Garci (both chambers of Congress want him, of course) claim that this will provide "closure"—a very important benefit, because, they say, closure is necessary for the country to bind up its wounds and march forward.

There are a couple of problems arising from this view. First, there is the implicit time limit they have placed on obtaining that closure. Which is one of the reasons, for example, that a fact-finding commission was turned down by the opposition: it would take too long.

Then there is the issue of what is considered an acceptable form of closure. They chose filing impeachment charges over a fact-finding commission (ignoring the fact that the latter could have helped in the former), and when the ill-prepared charges were dismissed, so that an impeachment trial never came about, they did not accept that as a resolution of the case. So they resorted to a lynch-mob-cum-citizen's-congress-for-truth-and-accountability, which is dying from public indifference. Now, there is the potential of the Garci "revelations." All these would seem to indicate that the only form of closure that will be accepted by this group is one that sees the President booted out of office—one way or another.

So the question is: Will the Garci circus provide that "closure"? Will going through this process result in Garci telling the truth?

Again, two obstacles arise in this regard. First, Garci and the truth are seemingly complete strangers (just consider his denial that he went abroad in the teeth of documentary evidence from Singapore and the Department of Foreign Affairs to the contrary). And second, the issue of what constitutes the truth. Alas, it would seem that the only statement by Garci that would be considered the truth would be one where he admits categorically that not only did the President cheat but that she would not have won unless she cheated. Any other story is going to be suspect, or dismissed out of hand.

The country is in a no-win situation with Garci.

Fact-finding commission, anyone? It is still not too late.

Hello, Thaksi

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TRUST THE PINOY TO JOKE ABOUT EVERYthing, which is both our saving grace and our drawback as a people. Already some are saying that where there was "Hello, Garci," now there's "Hello, Thaksi." Others crack that Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is actually a *pakawala* of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, trying to drown out the news about Garci's resurrection.

Actually, the thought process of the Thai prime minister is difficult to follow. He has accused the Philippines of putting a priority on medals "over athletic spirit," and "being good sports." The implication is that because RP is the host, it should not play to win but simply be a good sport and allow other countries to win. In sports and in many other arenas of life, however, one plays to win, but the important thing is that one plays by the rules. So long as it's an honest competition, aiming to harvest the most medals is absolutely justified. The media have noted that Thaksin, aside from being *pikon*, may have been eager to cast the Philippines in a bad light to draw the heat away from his own big problems, including the charges of corruption hounding his administration and the growing Muslim unrest in southern Thailand.

* * *

The Judicial and Bar Council decided not to interview the three nominees for chief justice. Six members voted against requiring an interview, one (Sen. Francis Pangilinan) voted for it and another one (retiring Chief Justice Hilario Davide) abstained. The JBC said that inasmuch as two of the five nominees (the two female justices) have withdrawn their names, there's no more need to interview the rest as it's no longer a screening process. It also said that the number of nominees remaining fulfills the basic requirement that three names be submitted to the President. This is the JBC's ostensible reason for scrapping the interview, but the popular belief is that it backed off due to opposition from other justices to the unprecedented ritual of interviewing their colleagues. In their letter to Davide, the justices said it's wrong to subject the three justices to an interview since the JBC is subordinate to the Court.

* * *

I fully agree with the decision to scrap the interview. I cannot, for instance, see how the president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, who represents the legal profession in the JBC, can interview the nominees when his stature is inferior to that of the nominees. When the justices reach that point where they are considered eligible to be named to the highest judicial post in the land, they must be presumed to fully deserve the nomination and no amount of interviewing can make them worthier. Certainly those who would interview them, such as the IBP president or Pangilinan, who is very junior in the Senate, stand to gain everything from it, but the justices will gain nothing. Subjecting them to an interview reminds me of the query of a very respected writer and literary critic about whether the "age of the common man" makes everyone much too common.

* * *

A worthy cause was brought to my attention by my niece, Maja Olivares-Co, who pointed out the need to support the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band (PYSB). The PYSB was organized in 1978 for the sole aim of nurturing and keeping alive the tradition of the symphonic band. All of us are familiar with those bands that were so much a part of every town especially during fiesta time, and which gave our country the reputation as the land of good musicians. But while they were an important part of our musical heritage, with the advent of commercial pop music, support for music education has waned. Thus, a group called the Young Musicians Development Organization (YMDO) was established to revive the symphonic band not just as part of our cultural tradition but also as a source of **"economic upliftment" and "artful livelihood" for musical talents all over the country who get little support and opportunity to play. YMDO, of which Maja is a trustee, supports the PYSB and budding Filipino musicians.**

The PYSB is a versatile ensemble of 62 young, dedicated and skilled musicians of ages 7 to 22, honed in classical discipline but equally adept at performing "let rip" rock-and-roll or Latin arrangements. The country's top performers have volunteered to help the band. Today YMDO launches at 5:30 p.m. at the RCBC Plaza's Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium on Ayala Avenue, Makati, its first fund-raising CD, during the PYSB's concert. Lea Salonga and Rachelle Gerodias will also perform and Agot Isidro will be the host.

* * *

My NGO partner, ace photographer Mandy Navasero, whose art and craft were honed at Brooks Institute of Photography and Fine Arts in Sta. Barbara, California, opened last Nov. 17 her second exhibit of "Celebrities Reading" at the LRI Business Plaza, a lifestyle and design center located at 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo), Bel Air II, Makati City. Mandy has a worthy mission: to glamorize the valuable habit of reading (which has hardly taken root among Pinoys) by portraying famous people in that pleasurable activity. Among those in her collection of 25 photo frames are President Ramos in his penthouse office's private study, Sen. Nene Pimentel reading to his 6-month-old granddaughter, INQUIRER magazine editor Alya Honasan and her dog Banana reading together, jazz singer Annie Brazil, pop diva Kuh Ledesma, actress Ana Capri (recently named Best Actress for "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre"), Via Mare proprietress Glenda Barretto, ABS-CBN chef Myrna Segismundo, food writer Michaela Fenix and Knowledge Channel's Rina Lopez Bautista. Catch "Celebrities Reading" at LRI Business Plaza until Dec. 8.

* * *

The eighth of nine Novena Masses to observe the 50th anniversary of the first Eucharistic celebration at the Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice in UP Diliman will be held tomorrow, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m., with Fr. Lorenz Festin as celebrant. UP alumni and UPSCAns are cordially invited.

Korea's lead 'flower man'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A MAN AND A WOMAN MEET IN THE BLEAK corridors of a country hospital, staging a vigil over their spouses who have been involved in a car wreck. Pretty soon, it becomes obvious that the two patients in a coma had been having an affair and their respective mates are left to deal with the emotional fallout of betrayal, anger, guilt, helplessness and bafflement.

"Why did you do it?" In-Su, the husband of the woman in the accident, asks his unconscious wife. "I just don't get it."

Thrown together in the hospital and in the motel where they wait out their lonely vigil, In-Su and the man's young wife, Seo-young, commiserate over shared meals and drinks. In time, perhaps out of loneliness, boredom or a desire for revenge, they embark on an affair of their own.

But the idyll has to come to an end, and when one spouse dies and the other recovers, the man and the woman are left confronting a whole new set of contradictory emotions and unseen consequences.

This is the story of "April Snow," a Korean movie shown here recently to a somewhat muted reception (it was hardly promoted) but which, in Japan, has become the highest-grossing Korean movie import to date. When I watched it with my friend Sandra Puno, the theater was filled with a disproportionate number of middle-aged women like ourselves, slumming on a Saturday afternoon. The reason my friend and I—and most of the women, I bet—were there was the movie's male lead, Bae Yong-joon, who shot to international (or at least East and Southeast Asian) superstardom via his role in the "Koreanovela" "Winter Sonata."

* * *

THERE were suspicions aired that in "April Snow" Bae, known to his millions of Japanese female fans as "Yonsama" ("sama" roughly translated as "prince" or "lord," much like calling Piolo Pascual "Papa Piolo," I guess), was merely banking on the romantic image cultivated in "Winter Sonata."

Indeed, In-Su bears a striking resemblance to Jun-Sang, the bespectacled, shaggy-haired and turtleneck-loving architect of "Winter Sonata," though in the movie Yonsama at least foregoes the bad hair coloring job. But surprisingly, "April Snow" turns out to be an "anti-Koreanovela," slow-paced and filled with silences, with a spare script and bleak scenery and subtle acting. Unlike in TV dramas where characters tend to over-articulate emotions, in "April Snow" it's the audience that's left to figure out what's going on in the couple's minds. Yonsama fans might also want to know that he has several bed scenes here with partial nudity.

There's even more nudity, I'm told, in "Untold Scandal," Yonsama's first feature movie that he made right after "Winter Sonata." His role as a sexual predator in "Untold Scandal," which according to reviews is the raciest version yet of "Dangerous Liaisons," was a decided departure from Bae's wholesome persona, and was a deliberate career move on his part. As Yonsama told the LA Times last month: "My image is not who I am in the real world. I want to do different types of roles so people can see what I can do."

* * *

PERHAPS Bae was reacting to his involuntary designation as head of the pack of "kkotminam" or "flower men," as the good-looking, impeccably groomed male leads of the TV dramas are called in Korea.

But it isn't so much the fancy duds that, I think, provoke the somewhat disdainful appellation. A "flower man," as exemplified by Jun-Sang in "Winter Sonata," is every woman's idealized lover: faithful and persevering, intelligent and sensitive, and yet also manly and authoritative, not to mention wealthy, well-educated and gentle of manner.

The "flower man" fits right into the world of Koreanovelas, which invariably center on a love triangle (or sometimes, a square) in which the characters must go through a slew of trials, oftentimes dating from childhood, including disapproving families, interfering rivals, economic hardships and a fatal illness. Through all these tests, the main romantic leads remain devoted to each other, though not all stories end happily. Diana Lee, writing in uniorb.com, says the serial dramas "depict wholesome love in its purest form without any nude or lustful contents to mitigate the essence of true love."

* * *

"WINTER Sonata," the second of director Yoon Sook-Ho's "season dramas" (after "Autumn Fairy Tale"), is widely acknowledged as spearheading the "Korean wave" (also known as "hallyu") of movies and TV dramas that have washed on to the shores of neighboring countries, making their biggest impact on Japan and establishing a beachhead in China.

"Winter Sonata's" overseas sales to 16 countries, it is reported, allowed its network KBS to earn profits of over $200 million in two years. Last year, exports of South Korean entertainment, most of them dramas, totaled $71.4 million, up 70 percent from 2003.

But the "Koreanovelas" are reaping dividends not just on the business front. The drama serials are also proving to be potent cultural weapons, imparting information about Korean culture and history (through the historical dramas), and raising the profile and stature of Koreans even in a country like Japan which has historically looked down on Korea, a former colony.

In an article with the tongue-in-cheek title of "World peace through Korean TV dramas," Alison Veneto notes that the historical antagonism between Korea and Japan might well be resolved not through armed conflict or diplomacy, but through winning the hearts and minds of the Japanese public through shows like "Winter Sonata."

Quips Veneto: "I'm utterly convinced that if the two countries ever went to war again and Yonsama joined up in Korea, Japanese women would riot, bringing any conflict to an immediate end."

An ill-fated expedition

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IF YOU'D BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR history teachers, you'd know that before Miguel Lopez de Legaspi made his successful foray into the Pasig River, there were three other attempts after Magellan to conquer the Philippines—all rather disastrous, but none as catastrophic as Ruy Lopez de Villalobos' expedition in 1542.

In his introduction to Francisco Pastell, S.J.'s, "Historia de Mindanao y Jolo," Wenceslao Retana mentions that the Augustinian archives contain a letter from Fr. Jeronimo de Santisteban, OSA who was involved in the Villalobos expedition as well as a report on the same trip written by Garcia Descalante Alvarado, also a member of the expedition.

According to these accounts, the squadron of Villalobos arrived south of the Philippines already in disarray. The vessels San Juan de Letran and San Antonio captained by Matias de Alvarado and Alonso Manrique, respectively, appeared in Baganga in the anchorage of Nonocan in February 1543. The lead ship Santiago carrying Captains Bernardo de la Torre, Villalobos and Fr. Jeronimo de Santisteban, the San Jorge under Capt. Francisco Merino and the brigantine San Martin were not able to drop anchor that day in the said place and instead went to Manay Bay. The ships remained anchored for nearly a month in the two ports of Mindanao without their encountering any friendly faces. The small brigantine San Cristobal under Pero Ortiz de Rueda was damaged by a storm before reaching Matalotes and went into dry dock in Masaua to undergo repairs.

The three vessels in Manay Bay decided to proceed to Masaua, but beset by bad weather, they ended up in Sarangani on April 2, at the cost of six lives. Two days later, they were joined by the San Juan. Then the brigantine San Cristobal now repaired, arrived with the good news that off Surigao there were some islands (later named Felipinas or Philipinas by Villalobos) where food was plentiful.

On Aug. 26, Villalobos sent the San Juan back to Mexico under Bernardo de la Torre to inform the viceroy of the results. Unfortunately soon after, the San Juan was beset by huge waves in the open sea so that the captain, afraid of shipwreck, returned to Sarangani.

Rebuffed by the inhabitants in his efforts to obtain the necessities for survival, Villalobos sent his *maestre de campo*, Francisco Merino, with 40 men to take over the fields of the Bilanes and harvest the palay. This didn't sit well with the natives. In the ensuing melee, Merino and some other men were killed. Villalobos organized a larger expedition that may have succeeded except that the Portuguese who teemed in those waters aided the Bilanes. To make matters worse, the San Jorge sank amid a typhoon.

Villalobos again decided to send the two brigantines to buy food in Abuyo and in Tandaya, but now the monsoon season had begun. The ships sought shelter in the Bay of Lacayan to await better weather. Father Jeronimo was also sent by Villalobos to look for food supplies which were running dangerously low. What was expected to take 11 days turned into 57 days, with the crew surviving on shellfish. They made landings thrice and in the last, 14 men were lost to hostile natives.

For six days, the crew subsisted on cloves. Reaching Caraga, they again tried to buy supplies but had to retreat upon encountering hostile Moros. This time nine men were lost, one of the brigantines was taken and sunk. Eight crew members were taken hostage, three of whom were never rescued.

The many misfortunes they encountered forced Villalobos to go to Tandaya still looking for supplies, only to find out that another brigantine had sunk, drowning 10 of the men. Mercifully, the natives had rescued the survivors and then sheltered and fed them.

In the meantime, Villalobos went off in search of Father Jeronimo. The remaining brigantine returned to Lacayan with Fathers Santisteban and Alvarado to rejoin Villalobos, only to find him gone. However, at the foot of a tree he had left a letter in a box telling them he was headed for an isle called Talao and if he couldn't make it, he would proceed to Zamaso.

Fathers Santisteban and Alvarado stopped by Gilolo where the king received them in peace and provided food supplies. Father Santisteban left another letter stating that they had arrived on April of 1544 and 21 of them were in Tandaya living in peace with the inhabitants and that they were leaving for Talao and Zamaso in search of Villalobos. Again they were thwarted when a powerful wind blew them back to Tandaya where they remained for 51 days.

Upon their return, they found out that the San Juan had been there and had rescued the remaining Spaniards who were held hostage. They paid for the hospitality of the natives who even welcomed them in their houses. In October 1544, they left Tandaya sailing along the coast of the great island of Mindanao for the last time.

Villalobos died in Amboina (Central Moluccas) on Good Friday, 1546, attended on his death bed by St. Francis Xavier. The priests in the expedition met with the saint and related to him all that had transpired and received glowing praise, or so they claimed. They were referred to Father Camerti, rector of the Jesuits in Goa, from where they were finally able to return to Spain being the first religious to circumnavigate the globe.

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Real-life games

YOUNG BLOOD

Fr. Jude Isidro Acevedo Rebaldo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN the big city again. The first time I spent Christmas in Manila was in 1984 when my father had to undergo treatment for peptic ulcer. It was on our way to the big city on an inter-island vessel that I had an experience that I will never forget.

Young as I was (I was 8 years old then), I went alone to the restroom to pee. When I tried to close the zipper of my pants, my little birdie was caught in it. I was crying as I went back to my father with my little thing still hanging out of my pants. He managed to fix the problem, but he teased me that he would have me circumcised as soon as we landed in the city.

Embarrassing as my experience was, it remains one of my most treasured memories of my father. My first Christmas in the city turned out to be the last Christmas I had with him. He died the following year.

This year, I have again the privilege of celebrating Christmas in the city. I can already hear Christmas carols being played on the radio. I can see Christmas lights and decorations hanging in some houses. There are also pre-Christmas sales in department stores. Indeed, the Christmas season begins early in the big city.

As my senses are assaulted by the signs of the coming celebration, I have begun to feel a longing for home and for my family. I know that I will miss the fun of our family Christmas party, like the one we had last year when the house was filled with the laughter and shouts of joy of my nephews and nieces. But I keep telling myself that Christmas must go on wherever I am.

Even as I anticipate my second Christmas in Manila, I have come upon certain realities in the big city which I have turned into games. One time after boarding a jeepney in Sucat, I took out the fare and requested the man beside me, "*Pakiabot, po*. LRT Baclaran *lang, po*." As he passed the fare forward, he repeated my words, "*Pakiabot, po*. LRT Baclaran *lang daw, po*." When another man gave the money to the driver, he said, "Baclaran *lang daw po*."

To me, it looked like a game of "message relay" where the leaders of competing groups get a message from the master of the game and pass it on to another person, who would in turn pass it to the next and so on until it reaches the last man who would run to the master to report what he heard. The group that delivers the message correctly and in the shortest time wins.

When we were caught in traffic near Multinational Village in Parañaque, I remembered the "powder game." In this game, face powder is placed in small bowls and the players blow the powder until the bowls are empty. When the game ends, you see the faces of the players covered with powder. Which was exactly what happened to the commuters as jeepneys and buses kept bombarding us with their smoke. What a dirty game it was!

At long last I arrived at the LRT station. To my surprise, I found another kind of game being played: the "longest line." To buy a ticket, I had to take a place at the end of a very long queue. The difference was that in the game the group forming the longest line is the winner, whereas at the LRT station everyone lining up was a loser.

As soon as I got my ticket, I hurried to find a strategic place to wait for my ride. When finally the train came and I heard the buzzer signaling the opening of the door, I rushed to find a seat. That was like the "trip to Jerusalem," where players race to grab vacant chairs and the one left standing is eliminated.

At the Pedro Gil station, I got off the LRT and spent several hours in my classes. I thought there would be no further discoveries on my way home. But when I boarded a jampacked LRT coach, I immediately noticed two teenagers standing and hugging each other so tightly that for a moment I thought I was seeing Siamese twins. The couple reminded me of the "tomato dance" where a tomato is placed between the heads of two players facing each other as they dance. The couple who drops the tomato loses. It's a fun game, but a very excessive display of affection in public can scandalize some people.

As I was going down the Baclaran station, I suddenly felt nervous when I saw some ambulant vendors running in my direction. I did not bother to know why they were running. I immediately boarded a jeepney bound for Sucat. Then I heard whistles being blown, and I concluded that the MMDA was again carrying its campaign against illegal vendors.

It reminded me of the game of "*habulan*" or "*taguan*," but I thought "treasure hunting" might be more appropriate. In the former, the players go their own separate ways while in the latter, cooperation and teamwork are needed to win.

I thought I had seen the last game for the day, but I was quickly proven wrong. As I was walking toward the house after getting off the jeepney, I saw some street children and their families sleeping on newspapers on the sidewalk. This reminded me of the "newspaper dance" where couples dance on a newspaper and fold it every time the song stops. The pair that fits into the smallest fold wins. The difference was that those children were trying to spread the newspaper as wide as possible so that no part of their bodies would touch the cold pavement. If this were a game, it was a morbid kind of game.

I think I have had enough of trying to identify games that parallel real-life situations. What matters more to me now is that I have realized that people in the city play "parlor games" the whole year round, practicing for the big games that come in December. As Christmas approaches, such games will be played more frequently and with greater intensity by an even bigger number of players. And I myself will be involved in some of them.

So the second time I will be spending Christmas in the city, I will need some extra energy. The prospect seems to be both exciting and stressful. But I really should have nothing to fear, except perhaps if I am forced to do the "statue dance." And that is going to happen when somebody pokes a knife or a gun at your back and tells you to give him your wallet or cell phone. Then you freeze and wait for the hold-up man to run away before you can move again.

I wish I wouldn't have to play this game during Christmas or any other season.

Fr. Jude Isidro Acevedo Rebaldo, 29, is a guest priest at the Lord's Resurrection Parish in BF Homes, Parañaque.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

OFW 'revolt' to bring about equitable Philippine society

AFTER READING "BRAIN DRAIN and the Filipino Diaspora" (PDI, 11/25/05), I could only agree with Raul Pangalangan that the government should not regulate the migration of trained professionals to other countries. Doing this will further create frustration among highly intelligent and capable people.

It is a good thing that Filipinos in information technology and in the medical field are sought after by Western economies. This provides opportunities for these people to break their own cycle of poverty and create a bright future for them and their families. In the area of migration, there should be less government intervention, and the government must let market forces dictate the destiny of its people.

The government has a very poor record of creating a better life for its people. If the government were to regulate this area, it would be asking for trouble. It would confine a whole sector of society to a lifetime of poverty, while unwittingly, perpetuating the dominance of the rich in Philippine government and business. OFWs and migrant Filipinos are changing the social structure of the Philippines without the shedding of blood.

In the future, Filipino overseas workers will amass great fortunes through their own merit and not through inheritance or corruption. This could only be good for the country. The government should focus instead on the following:

1. Ensuring that Filipino migrants or OFWs are well-supported in the countries where they are working.

2. Using their remittances to create an environment where more and more unemployed are retrained to fill the vacuum created by professionals leaving the country.

3. Tapping the intellectual capital of Filipinos whether they live at home or abroad.

Having been involved in the Filipino community here in New Zealand, I know that Filipinos, wherever they are, love their adopted country and do well. However, they always have the Philippines in their hearts and would love to see a prosperous country whose people live to their full potential.

—SAM DIGNADICE,
Sam_Dignadice@hotmail.com

Marcos law clashes with Constitution

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENcio Rosales should not try to sound like a lawyer. It pains this sinner. I write this joylessly. We look to him as a moral leader invoking a "higher law." (The German generals would fervently sing "Now Thank We All Our God" before exterminating Jews; Hitler had made his generals believe that law was anything that called itself by that name and that was printed at government expense.)

A Marcosian law cannot trump the 1987 Constitution that empowers the police to water-cannon protesters only when there is a clear and present danger to public safety. In our time, before I faded as a street parliamentarian, there would be patient negotiations before dispersal. There would be dialogues and ultimatums. There was none in the rally we saw last Oct. 14.

The last rally I led was in 1998 when I was in Mendiola, urging President Erap not to move the remains of Ferdinand Marcos to the Libingan ng mga Bayani. He sent word whether we might need bottled water. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did send water to the thirsty marchers of Oct. 14—not in bottles though.

I went to Legarda from San Beda (of which I am an alumnus and where I teach) when I heard that Tito Guingona and company had been water-cannoned. The police would not allow me to return to San Beda to retrieve my car, which upset me. I had a Makati appointment.

(When the PNP had the intelligence and good sense to allow in the marchers, their brothers and sisters, in the rally held a few days after, the protest ended peacefully.) To be fair, in the end, on that day, Oct. 14, the PNP allowed Ka Oca Orbos and me, among others, to go to our beautiful church, where we sinners prayed.

I wish I had a role in the San Beda-bound marches, but the truth is inglorious: *bumili lang po ako ng suka, ayaw na akong pabalikin nuong Biyernes*. I just regret that what we could freely do during the terms of Marcos, Aquino, Ramos and Estrada, we cannot do now, and the archbishop gives aid and comfort to those who would follow the twisted implementation of a Marcosian law that is at war with the fundamental law of the land. In the end, obeying the positive law against humanity did not save the Nazis from a higher one.

—R.A.V.SAGUISAG,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Salary hike based on profit increase?

TODAY'S HIGH COST OF LIVING is affecting everyone's lifestyle. But is increasing the minimum wage the solution to this problem? The call for additional benefits for workers and for the amendment of the law on tripartite regional wage boards, so that workers' salaries can be raised more than once a year, might just add to our unemployment problem.

The members of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines want at least a minimum salary increase of P70 in their daily take-home pay. Some labor groups are clamoring for a P125-daily wage increase. But higher legislated minimum wage could result in a lower demand from companies to employ workers, hence a surplus of laborers. It could even lead to massive layoffs as only a few, well-established businesses would be able to pay their existing workforce as mandated by law. If wages are held above the "competitive equilibrium" in the market, unemployment is the likely result.

I propose that workers ask for an increase in salary in relation to profit increase because firms aim to maximize profit and minimize cost. No business will survive if its expenses are skyrocketing while its profits remain the same or are declining. In light of our financial crisis, isn't a low salary better than no salary at all?

—MICHELLE LO,
mouse_michelle@hotmail.com

Not prohibited land mines

WE LAUD INQUIRER'S NOV. 27 editorial for exposing and taking a clear and categorical stand on the shooting of unarmed farmers in Palo, Leyte last Nov. 21.

We, however, take exception to the editorial's mention in passing of the NPA's use of "prohibited land mines" in its recent tactical offensive in Iloilo where the AFP suffered heavy losses. The INQUIRER could have been more circumspect, discerning and objective with respect to the complex question of land mines.

The NPA meticulously follows international laws, conventions and rules of warfare and is governed by strict standards in producing and employing command-detonated land mines. It does not at all use mines that violate these laws, conventions and rules.

In this regard, we refer to the exact definition of "anti-personnel land mine" as stated in Article 2, Section 1 of the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction," also known as the Ottawa Treaty:

"Anti-personnel mine" means a mine designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person. Mines that are designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity or contact of a vehicle (as opposed to a person) and are equipped with anti-handling devices are not considered "anti-personnel mines."

The internationally accepted definition of "anti-personnel mine" clearly does not cover the command-detonated land mines which the NPA employs as legitimate offensive weapons against targeted military vehicles of the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP). These weapons wired to manual detonating devices are applied only during tactical military operations and are carefully attended to by NPA fighters to ensure that these are fired only against legitimate military targets.

—MARCO VALBUENA,
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Poor majority has significant role in the country's march to progress

CHRISTIAN MONSOD'S ARTICLE in Talk of the Town (PDI, 11/27/05), while splendid in very many ways, appears to lack a dimension necessary to solving problems in the future. It seems as if he sees no positive role for the poor who constitute 60 percent of the population. They are a concern—must be, in fact, the principal concern of government. But they are assumed to be inactive as the other present-day objects of concern, such as forests, reefs, etc.

Middle-class and upper-class groups can oust a president as they have shown in the past, but only the complete, active participation of the poor will enable the entire nation to modify the gap in wealth and power between rich and poor. Only the poor will really care to do this because it is primarily in their self-interest to do so.

Can we add the education and organization of the poor to the agenda for change that Christian Monsod is advocating?

—DENIS MURPHY,
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Lafayette admits losing 'showcase stature'

By Blanche S. Rivera

LEGAZPI, ALBAY—FACING PERSISTENT OPPOSITION from environmentalists and local officials in Rapu-Rapu, Australian mining firm Lafayette Mining Ltd. said it deserves the loss of its showcase stature in the Philippine mining industry.

For the first time since the suspension of its gold processing operation last month, Lafayette admitted that no one, not even its shareholders and employees, wanted to be associated with the mine spills that caused fish kills and strengthened opposition to the project.

"The shareholders are not happy. We should be producing unhindered and generating revenue that starts to repay their (shareholders) faith and investment in the company," McIlwain said in an interview at the mine site Wednesday.

"The employees are not happy because they are associated with a project that has lost its luster. We are the showcase project in the Philippines, and unfortunately, deservedly so, we don't have that reputation right now. We have to recover that," he said.

Lafayette, which is on top of the P1.4-billion Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project, has embarked on a rehabilitation program required by the government to regain its standing as the flagship project of the country's revived mining industry.

He said the shareholders of Lafayette were very aware of the importance of the Rapu-Rapu project not only to the company but to the resource industry in the Philippines.

"No one wants to be associated with something that has not gone properly," McIlwain said.

The Lafayette executive said the firm was working hard to prove to the Environmental Management Bureau and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau that it can operate in a responsible manner.

"That's the first thing we got to do. We must regain our ground, we have to demonstrate that we can do this," he said.

McIlwain said Lafayette was also willing to "reach out" to the Rapu-Rapu municipal government and explain the issues to its critics.

Lafayette's effort, however, comes as the Rapu-Rapu municipal council announced its move to enact a 10-year mining moratorium in the 5,000-hectare gold-rich island.

Rapu-Rapu Mayor Dick Galicia said the council would start public hearings on the proposed moratorium in January, after the council is done with its budget deliberations.

"There will be no compromise," Galicia, a former supporter of the Rapu-Rapu project until the mine spills, said in an interview Thursday night.

He said most of the 34 barangays in Rapu-Rapu are against the operations, making the mining moratorium almost a sure thing.

ROUNDUP

12 bolt Olongapo jail

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—At least 12 inmates escaped from the Olongapo City district jail on Friday morning, the regional director of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology said. BJMP director in Central Luzon Senior Supt. Dionisio Mamaril said the detainees destroyed the wooden ceiling and aluminum roof of their cell in Barangay Barretto at about 2:45 a.m., climbed the roof of the women's detention center and there, used a four-meter long lumber as a bridge to the compound's fence. Mamaril has dismissed the four jail guards on duty and recommended the filing of administrative and criminal charges against them. Olongapo City jail warden Chief Insp. Ramon Vallentes was sacked to serve as head of the task force assigned to rearrest the 12 prisoners. *Tonette Orejas with reports from Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Tax exemption pushed

DAVAO CITY—The Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (DCCCII) endorsed to Congress a proposal to exempt minimum daily wage earners in Southern Mindanao from paying income taxes as a form of wage benefit. Blenvenido Cariaga, DCCCII president, said the exemption would be a big help to wage earners, particularly with the implementation of the Expanded Value Added Tax. Cariaga said because the business sector cannot afford to raise salaries, the exemption would boost the workers' standard of living. He said they were also pushing for transportation discounts and an increase in the social security and hospitalization benefits of workers in the region.

Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Lawyer shot in Cebu

CEBU CITY—A 59-year-old lawyer was shot and wounded at about 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 24 in Aviation Road, Barangay Basak, Lapu-lapu City, on Mactan Island, Cebu. James Joseph Gupana was driving his Toyota Prado on his way home to Barangay Pajac in Lapu-lapu when one of two men riding a motorcycle shot him. Insp. Francisco Baguio, Lapu-lapu police station chief of the intelligence and investigation section, said the bullets shattered the windshield of the vehicle but the lawyer was hit once in the upper portion of the chest. Baguio said the assailant failed to hit the victim because of the car's tinted windshield.

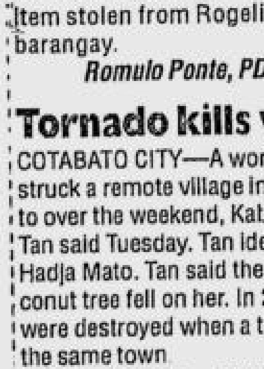
Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Guard dies from lightning

ROXAS CITY—A village guard of Barangay Malapad Cogon in Sigma town Capiz was killed after he was hit by lightning on Nov. 25. Raymund Castañales suffered serious burns in different parts of the body and was declared dead on arrival by physicians at the Roxas Memorial Provincial Hospital here. Castañales was inside the village guards' headquarters with village chief Oscar Acolentaba and other guards when hit by lightning. The guards and some village officials were at their headquarters to provide security for the Boys Scout Jamboree held inside the Malapad Cogon Elementary School.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

Robber nabbed



SAN PABLO CITY—Police arrested a suspect who stole about five kilograms of electric wire from a resident. A report said at about 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 23, police and barangay officials swooped down on the house of Edil Ilagan Marasigan, 24, of Barangay Santisimo and caught him in possession of the item stolen from Rogelio Paro of the same barangay.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tornado kills woman

COTABATO CITY—A woman died when a tornado struck a remote village in Kabacan, North Cotabato over the weekend, Kabacan Mayor Luzviminda Tan said Tuesday. Tan identified the fatality as Hadja Mato. Tan said the victim died after a coconut tree fell on her. In 2003, at least 15 houses were destroyed when a tornado hit Pedtad also in the same town.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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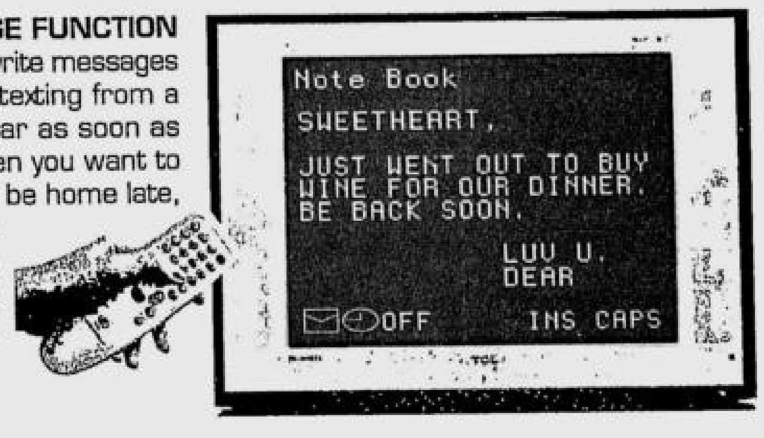

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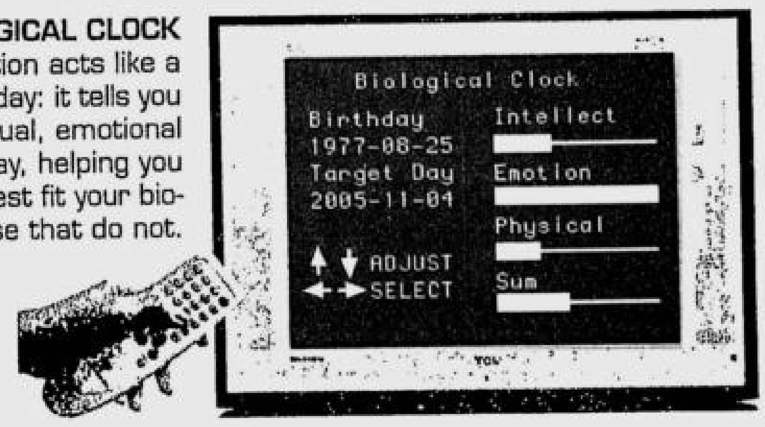

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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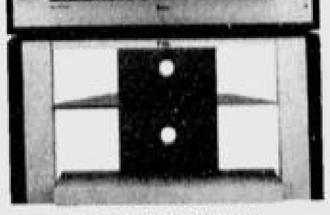

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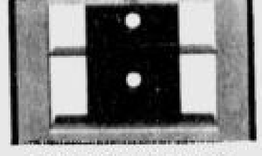
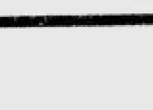


DYNAMIC REAL FLAT - 189 SERIES



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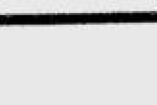

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Waterless village up in arms

BUGUIAS, BENGUET—RESIDENTS of Barangay Abatan here are up in arms against Mayor Thomas Palileng and a village treasurer over the disconnection of a main water pipe that has left them waterless for more than three weeks now.

A legal clash loomed as the residents decided to follow the advice of the provincial board to sue for injunction and damages Calamagan treasurer Cornel Montes who allegedly caused the disconnection.

Agustin Dacus, Abatan barangay chair, said they are also taking to task Palileng for his failure to resolve the dispute despite having been informed of the complaint.

Board Member Apolinario Camsol, the town's former mayor, added fire to the issue when he said that "it is the mayor's moral obligation to act with dispatch on such kind of problem."

Abatan's water supply comes from Sitio Lebeng in Calamagan. A 6-km pipe, built in 1993, conveys the water to Abatan, the town's main commercial center.

Appearing before the provincial board in La Trinidad town on Wednesday, the residents said Montes claimed his family owned the water source and decided to cut the supply after they refused to accede to his demand for payment.

"We had our investigation and found that he had no water rights over the area," Dacus said. Camsol echoed the same finding.

What broke their back, Dacus said, was that when they reconnected the pipe, it was cut anew the following day.

In their petition filed before the board, the residents said the entire barangay of Abatan had been suffering the effects of the disconnection, rendering waterless even the municipal hall, public toilets, the Lutheran Emergency Hospital and the Abatan Elementary School.

"Now, we are forced to buy commercial water at P30 a drum," Dacus said.

Palileng denied that he failed to act on the residents' complaint and lamented their move to immediately bring the problem to the attention of provincial officials.

"No official communication had been addressed to us. But after Dacus informed me orally about it, I advised him to exhaust all means to settle the issue peacefully," he said.

In their petition, the Abatan residents said Palileng's inaction "constituted negligence and indifference which would only aggravate the sad state and unsanitary condition of our place."

But Palileng said his office was trying its best to solve the problem. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Case of murdered judge back to square one

TAYUG, PANGASINAN—IT'S BACK to square one in solving the killing of a regional trial court judge from Natividad town after a court here dismissed the murder and theft cases filed against the suspects.

In a resolution released Wednesday, Judge Ulysses Butuyan, of the regional trial court, said there was no probable cause against the suspects in the Sept. 23 killing of Judge Estrellita Paas.

Butuyan said probable cause was supposed to be established Nov. 21 when he ordered the complainant, Paas' husband Renerio, and the witnesses—one of the suspects and his wife—to appear in court.

But none of them appeared, he said.

The victim's husband filed murder and theft cases against Elmer Cabiles and Jornald Vargas who allegedly fatally stabbed Judge Paas.

Cabiles, however, signed an affidavit saying he was one of the two persons who entered Paas' house but he did not participate in the killing.

Reneiro Paas told the court that when he saw his wife dead, he immediately sought police assistance.

Butuyan dismissed Paas' statement as "hearsay."

He also found inconsistencies in the statements of Cabiles and his wife.

Ronald Paas, son of the slain judge, appeared in court on that day, and said he would file a motion inhibiting Butuyan. But the motion was not filed. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

LEONCIO BALBIN/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

ILOCOS TREE
It's the time of the year when provinces, towns and villages bring out their best for the holidays, like what Ilocos Sur officials did through this Christmas tree made out of *abel iloco* fabric.

GSIS faces new woes in pre-need plan

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT SERvice Insurance System is facing its own problems with a pre-need service it commissioned for government workers here.

Delia Madarazo, GSIS Baguio manager, has been receiving complaints since October regarding the GSIS Genesis Memorial Plan, which has been disrupted by a contractual dispute with a firm that handles the marketing and mortuary services for government clients.

Genesis contracted the Paz Memorial Services Inc. and the Prudential Life Insurance Co. to act as GSIS' official servicing mortuaries, but plan holders were told that the Paz contract had been terminated without their knowledge.

Many GSIS members have started withdrawing from the memorial plan as a consequence because Paz will no longer honor the government's pre-need documents. But plan holders are now encountering problems redeeming their premiums from the insurance body.

No explanation

Madarazo declined to explain GSIS' reasons for terminating the Paz contract, but she said GSIS is developing a new guideline that will allow plan holders using the Paz contract to engage other mortuary-servicing firms instead.

She said GSIS returned the premiums of a few plan holders, but these were reduced based on the conditions of the memorial plan arrangements they had purchased.

Helen Tibaldo, Cordillera director of the Philippine Information Agency, complained on behalf of her employees in October that La Paz funeral homes in Baguio now refuses to "accommodate memorial services" despite the conditions set by the government pre-need plan.

"On our part as members, we were confident that the premiums we have religiously paid were in good hands so much so that [these are] being handled by a government entity," Tibaldo said in an Oct. 3 complaint.

Withdrawals

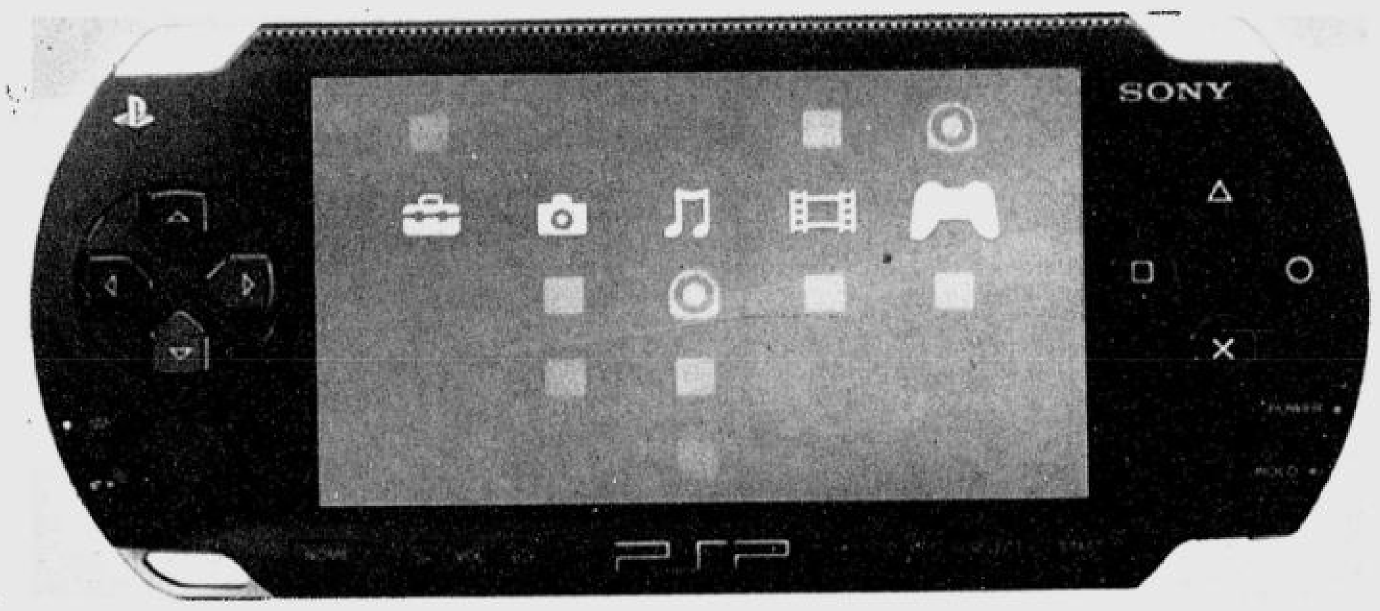
"Without the benefit of any notification from your end and for fear that it would be just like any other private pre-need plans, other staff [members of PIA] have already withdrawn part of their premiums based on the terms and conditions spelled out in the termination portion of their policy contracts," she said.

But Tibaldo complained when GSIS reimbursed only half of what her employees paid to complete their policies.

"Where will the remaining amount go?" she asked Madarazo in the letter.

Madarazo had advised Tibaldo and other complainants to hold on to their plans, while GSIS tried to solve its contract dispute with Paz.

Genesis stopped expanding its coverage in 1998, and now exists solely to accommodate its present clients, Madarazo said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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November Exhibits	*Date*
SM North Edsa	November 24 - December 7
SM Makati	November 30 - December 13
December Exhibits	
CSI San Fernando - La Union	December 7 - 18
Automatic - ATC	December 19 - 30
Glorietta Activity Center	December 19 - 27

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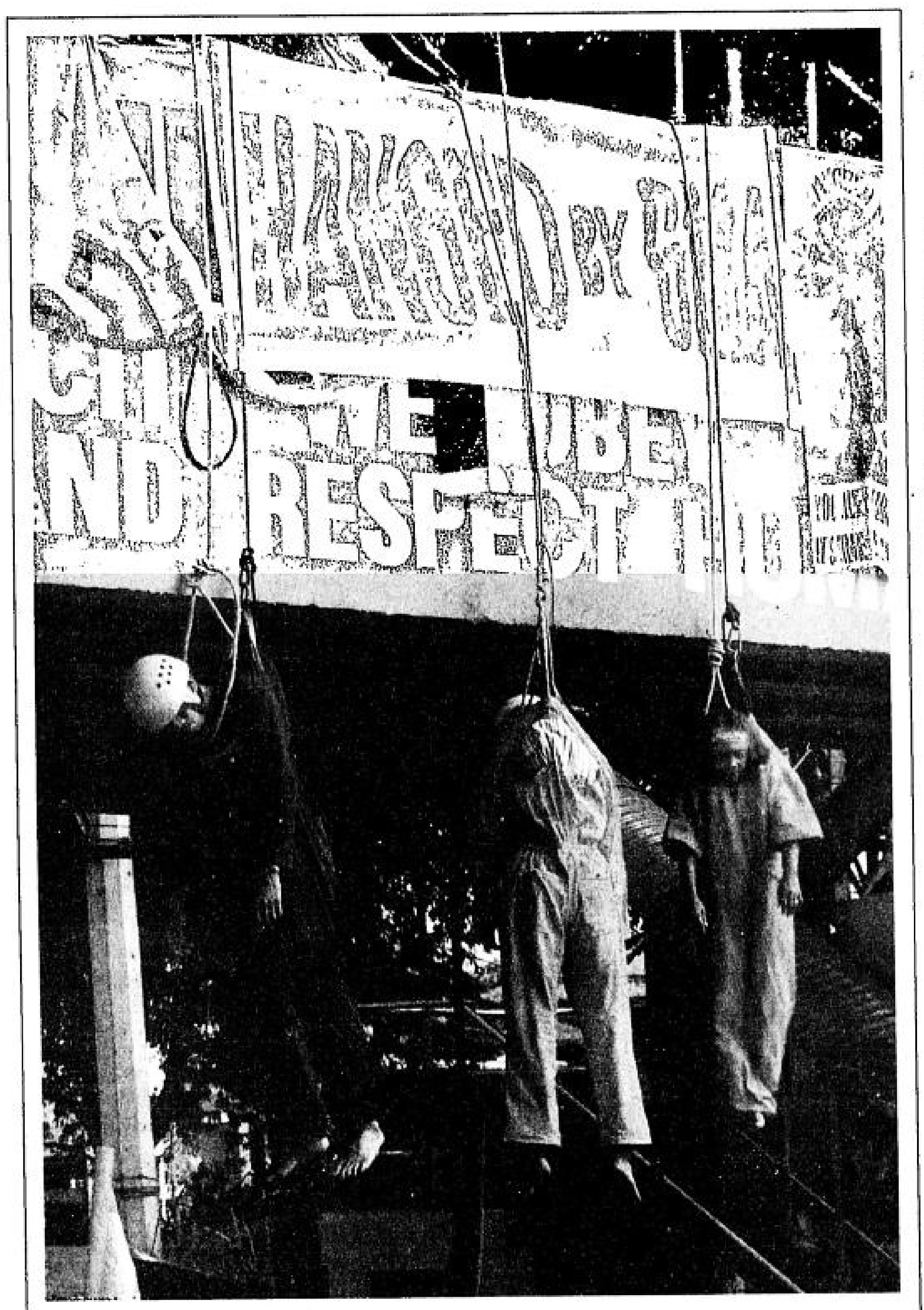

SHOCK TREATMENT ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Commuters and passersby get the shock of their lives on seeing three members of the left-wing Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) hanging from an Iloilo City overpass in protest of alleged human rights violations under the Arroyo administration.

N. COTABATO RAID

Pentagon leader captured

CAMP SIONGCO, MAGUINDANAO—A ranking leader of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang was among the three men arrested by authorities during a pay-off for kidnap victim Bravick Araral in Midsayap, North Cotabato on Wednesday evening, the military said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said Mike Tan, 40, is actually Ibrahim Sagandal, a former Moro rebel who became a Pentagon gang leader.

Sagandal, who Dema-ala considered a big catch, was also the main suspect in the April 2005 kidnapping of Cotabato City businessman Benny Kotah.

Kotah remains captive as the family failed to raise the P10 million ransom demanded by his captors.

Dema-ala said that with Sagandal's arrest, the military has crippled what he described as a network of kidnappers operating in his area of jurisdiction.

6th ID covers the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato and Sarangani.

"This group (Pentagon) is an organized group. One group of about two persons would conduct the surveillance, another group of three or five people would carry the actual kidnapping, another group does the safekeeping of the victim and another group, also within the network, does the negotiation and the receiving of the ransom payment," he said.

Sagandal was arrested with Ting Sainudin and Faisal Guialoson Mama during a raid in Barangay Poblacion 6 in Midsayap.

Their arrests were largely due to information provided by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), according to North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol.

The three did not resist arrest. But a fourth, unidentified suspect is still at large. *Edwin Fernandez, with a report from Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Calimlim blames pols for his woes in Subic

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THIS freeport's anti-smuggling czar yesterday said some politicians have been waging a campaign to oust him from the task force and seven other positions he holds at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

"They don't want to maintain me here. Their interests are being affected," said Jose Calimlim, former Armed Forces of the Philippine vice chief of staff whom President Macapacal-Arroyo designated last year chief of the freeport's anti-smuggling task force.

Calimlim issued this statement to the INQUIRER a day after the task force observed the first anniversary of its creation through Executive Order 384.

While he declined to identify his detractors, Calimlim said one of the groups had questioned his multiple assignments.

Aside from heading the task force, he is president of the Freeport Service Corp. (FSC), which oversees the hiring of SBMA employees. He is also a director of the SBMA and its deputy administrator for operations.

On top of these, he supervises the engineering, fire and law enforcement departments and the intelligence and investigation service office.

Recently, the land and asset department had been placed under Calimlim's watch. This office handles the marketing and maintenance of housing units in Kalayaan, Binictican and Forest Hills.

Except for Calimlim, no other SBMA official was known to have held several posts in the agency since it was created by Congress in 1992.

Calimlim justified his multiple positions by pointing out that these gave him the advantage of coordinating the work of the anti-smuggling task force.

"There's been no conflict. The task force has been effective," he said.

His other duties were not being neglected, he said.

But at least 32 incidents of burglary and theft at the commercial and housing districts, including the break-in at the SBMA treasury where P1.7 million was lost, cast doubts on the efficiency of the law enforcement department, which is also under Calimlim's watch.

Some of these, his men said, were "orchestrated to embarrass" the retired general.

According to Calimlim, another group of critics wants the FSC out of his hold.

The motive, he said, was to "transform the FSC as an employment agency to dispense jobs to their political wards and supporters."

A former top SBMA official believed Calimlim was "too distracted" by his many duties.

Abra cop killed near home; colleagues kill 2 suspects

BAGUIO CITY—TWO MOTORcycle-riding men shot and killed a policeman in Bangued, Abra, early Friday, a report from the Cordillera police office said.

PO3 Efren Balauro, 45, who was assigned to the Traffic Management Group in the Ilocos, was killed near his house in Barangay Patucannay in Bangued at 7:45 a.m., Senior Supt. Alexander Pumecha, spokesperson of the Cordillera police, said.

But off-duty policemen who live in the same neighborhood chased and engaged the gunmen, Pumecha said.

SPO1 Michael Brioso, who is assigned to the Bangued police station, fired at the gunmen and killed Ali Madriaga.

Rudy Bersamin, the driver of the motorcycle, fled on foot but PO1 Rainier Tugadui, who is assigned to the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame, gave chase. Brioso and Tugadui cornered Bersamin, who died in the gunfight.

Pumecha said police have no leads to explain Balauro's murder or the recent attacks on policemen in the province. Police later arrested Rodel Laureta, 41, Balauro's neighbor, who was believed to have acted as a "pointman" or "a lookout" for the gunmen.

Earlier, the Cordillera police charged the security aide of Bucay Mayor Rudolfo Bernardez IV with the Nov. 18 murder of two policemen in the province.

Pumecha said Nathan Bernardez, the suspected gunman of SPO1 Emilio Alzate and PO3 Gerry Ebiong, is a cousin and chief security officer of Bernardez.

Alzate and Ebiong are members of a composite police force that replaced the Abra police unit early this year.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes ordered the withdrawal of the Abra police, and removed the power of Abra officials to control their town's police forces. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Iloilo teenagers get serious about sex

By Hazel P. Villa
Concepcion, Iloilo

TALK ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES WITH FILIPINO teenagers and you get giggles, muffled laughter, or embarrassed silence. The red faces become redder when one mentions sexual body parts to adolescents brought up in conservative and sometimes misinformed households, where reference to anything related to sex is taboo.

BUTLAK President Janice Mosqueda and Lucy Abat, Concepcion's public health nurse, offer their voluntary counseling services for adolescents in a private room at the town's Rural Health Unit. PHOTOS BY HAZEL P. VILLA

This cultural peculiarity is starting to fade away in northern Iloilo, where teenagers are beginning to talk more openly about sex and are actually mentioning sexual body parts in the vernacular—with straight faces and a clinical, almost scientific approach.

Thanks to the "Youth Defined Quality (YDQ) Workshops" and private counseling rooms for adolescents, the young people are now involved in delivering quality reproductive health services and using them as they themselves become educated on sexual behavior and reproduction.

Northern Iloilo, which is composed of the coastal towns of Ajuy, Concepcion, San Rafael, Batad, Estancia, Carles, Balasan, Sara and Lemery, has realized that until its adolescents could comfortably approach adults and their local health service providers and raise their concerns on sex and sexuality, any other effort to prevent rapid population growth may be futile.

Counseling rooms

The People and Environment Coexistence Development Project (Pesco-Dev) of the Save the Children Foundation (SCF) put up over a year ago 29 counseling rooms for adolescents after realizing that the towns' teenagers had nowhere to go when they needed professional help.

The initiative was supported by Project COPE (Convergence on Poverty Eradication) of the Philippines Canada Development Fund and the Alliance of Northern Iloilo for Health and Development (Anihead).

Since the counseling rooms became functional in July 2004, about 150 of northern Iloilo's young people have been counseled on sexual and emotional problems, a big step toward curbing spiraling populations.

The adolescents attend the YDQ workshops, a method introduced by the SCF that brings together health service providers and adolescents in dialogues regarding their shared responsibility for increasing access to quality reproductive health services for young people.

They are encouraged to express their opinions about the management, operation and use of their health facilities.

The workshops have three sessions—exploring quality with youth and health service providers, bridging the gap between them, and working in partnership.

Last year, the first two workshops resulted in a management plan for the counseling rooms. After the third, Quality Improvement Teams were formed to implement a continuous quality improvement process, including a periodic review of progress to determine which problems are resolved and to identify new ones that need to be addressed.

A report from the SCF showed that as of November 2004, four sessions on exploring quality and bridging the gap have been held, mobilizing 165 adolescents and 32 health service providers from all over the region. The activities have resulted in the formulation of municipal-level management plans for "teen" counseling rooms in Ajuy, Concepcion and San Dionisio.

Elsa Tolentino, former Pesco-Dev staff and currently SCF program coordinator for Dingle, said that in order to sustain the impact of the YDQs in the communities, partner local government units and members of Project COPE had been trained to replicate the process in the other Anihead member-towns.

The Concepcion model

In Concepcion (pop.: 38,224, with about 51 percent below the age of 24), increasing population growth and poverty are the top problems, prompting its local government unit to bat for zero poverty using the population, health and environment (PHE) programs, among other interventions.

TALKING openly about sex is encouraged in the counseling room for teenagers in Concepcion.

One of the PHE components is the Adolescent Reproductive Sexual Health (ARSH), which was introduced in the town in 2002.

The ARSH has been so successful in educating the young people that program activities will be integrated in future development plans, said Rene Sobremonte, municipal planning and development coordinator.

"We believe that adolescents should be educated on sexual issues because early marriage and premarital sex will result to a very alarming situation for the community," said Sobremonte.

YDQ workshops started in Concepcion in mid-2004, said Lucy Abat, the public health nurse.

The ARSH "peer facilitators" and trained family planning volunteers addressed population problems in Barangays Nipa, Lo-ong and Bagongon, and Pesco-Dev replicated their experiences and trainings in 14 other mainland and island barangays in the middle of 2004.

Concepcion's first Municipal ARSH Camp was held on May 26-29, with participants from 25 barangays.

At the camp, teenagers gave testimonies on unwanted pregnancies and premarital sex, and how to avoid them. Likewise, sessions for private discussions related to sex were held with trained facilitators.

"Once the youth is empowered, they can help the community and decrease population at the same time," said Abat, who has served the Concepcion municipal government since 1992.

'Ray of light'

Born in Concepcion's first Municipal ARSH Camp in the summer of 2005 was "Butlak" (Barangay nga Naga Ugyon Tuhok sa Lihok sang ARSH kag Kabataan), an organization that seeks to support the implementation of the key programs for adolescents.

Butlak is loosely translated in English as "ray of light."

It has 19-year-old Janice Arlos Mosqueda as its first president. The college student, taking up a Bachelor of Education course, major in Filipino, at the Northern Iloilo Polytechnic College, is an effective spokesperson on the consequences of premarital sex and the importance of waiting for the right time to have a family, having been trained on the ARSH since July 2004.

"Before the ARSH trainings and YDQ workshops, I was like other teenagers who found it embarrassing and coarse behavior to talk about sex and reproductive organs, but after the training I learned that such things talked about in the proper context is actually emotionally healthy," said Mosqueda in Hiligaynon.

Many of her peers had thought that early marriage was acceptable but changed their minds after the ARSH trainings, she said. They were informed of the great risks of early marriage and the painful consequences of raising children unprepared.

For most of northern Iloilo's informed adolescents, the birds and the bees are now serious issues.

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WHAT WENT BEFORE

By PDI Research

THE TRAVAILS OF FORMER Armed Forces comptroller, retired Maj. General Garcia, began two years ago.

2003

December—Ian Carl, a son of Garcia's, was held at San Francisco airport in the US for failure to declare $100,000 he was carrying.

2004

February—AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya ordered an investigation.

Oct. 4—AFP said it had suspended Garcia after the Ombudsman placed him under preventive suspension for "dishonesty, gross misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Service." The Ombudsman said the increase in Garcia's net worth was disproportionate to his legitimate income. Garcia's salary was P36,015 a month.

Oct. 5—Media reports said that in her affidavit presented to US authorities, Garcia's wife said her husband received travel money and expenses amounting to thousands of dollars. She also said Garcia received cash for travel and expenses from businesses in Europe and Asia that had been awarded contracts for military hardware. She also said Garcia got gifts and gratitude money from local firms awarded contracts to build roads, bridges and military housing. US Customs disclosed that Mrs Garcia brought to the US $48,000 in May 2002, $100,000 in December 2003 and $20,230 in January 2004. Garcia himself brought $15,000 in November 1993 and $10,400 in August 1995.

Accounts frozen

Oct. 17—PDI reported that Garcia, with the help of his wife and two sons, transferred to the United States at least $785,630 in the past 11 years.

Oct. 21—The Solicitor General said P52,510,980.05 in peso and dollar accounts in five banks had been frozen by the Court of Appeals.

Nov. 2—The Sandiganbayan froze P143 million of Garcia's alleged ill-gotten wealth.

Nov. 5—Ombudsman files four charges of perjury against Garcia.

Nov. 16—Before the military court, Garcia pleads not guilty to charges of conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

P5,000 grew to millions

2005

March 10—Evangeline Balboa, branch manager of Land Bank of the Philippines, presents to military court Garcia's bank statement showing balance of P4,694,647.11.

—Emerina Reyes, acting Camp Aguinaldo branch manager of LBP, says Garcia had deposits there of P1,666,795.35. She said the account was opened in 2001 with a beginning balance of P5,000.

April 4—Military prosecutors rest their case after presenting 14th and last witness, Kevin Peters of US Department of Homeland Security. Peters said Garcia had been granted permanent resident status in violation of US law.

Plunder case

April 6—Ombudsman slaps Garcia family with plunder case before Sandiganbayan. Ombudsman said investigation showed Garcia, in connivance with his family, "willfully, unlawfully and criminally amass[ed], accumulate[d] and acquire[d] ill-gotten wealth in the form of funds, landholdings and other real and personal properties in the aggregate amount of P303,272,005.99."

May 10—Garcia opens his defense in court-martial, saying memorandum recommending he be charged for being a green card holder lacked necessary bar code.

July 5—Second forfeiture case against the Garcias filed before Ombudsman. It brought to more than P345 million the total assets being sought by the government from the family.

Dec. 2—Garcia is found guilty by military court.

Source: PDI Archives

Cheating raps: Truce on the battlefront

By Jasmine W. Payo

A TRUCE HAS BEEN DECLARED ON THE cheating controversy, at least by Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

"It's a closed issue," Cojuangco said, noting that the country should just focus on its bid for an overall championship despite remarks by Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra questioning the officiating at the meet.

"Every head of delegation and sports officials made it very clear that they're happy with the way things are being done here," said Cojuangco, who met with the members of the SEA Games Federation Council on Thursday. "They indicated that they're satisfied. They've actually congratulated us."

Cheating is common?

Although there were still no formal complaints filed, Cojuangco said moves were being taken to iron out criticisms against the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee's supposedly poor organization and alleged questionable officiating.

"There's still a multitude of concerns but we're getting by," said Cojuangco. "We're doing our best in handling our responsibilities."

Thaksin had questioned the officiating in several sports.

But in an interview with top Bangkok broadsheet The Nation, SEA Games Federation Council member Chaipak Siriwat of Thailand noted that questions on fair play were a common occurrence in the regional meet.

"I believe that cheating and biased refereeing also occurred during the previous games in Vietnam," said Chaipak. "But I think it's counterproductive to harp on [such allegations] because complaints may tarnish cordial relations among Southeast Asian countries."

Home crowd advantage

Chaipak, who apologized to the Philippines on behalf of the Thailand Sports Council, also gave assurances that "there will be no cheating and biased judgment" when his country hosts the Games in 2007.

Cojuangco noted that the Philippines' home court advantage was a big factor in the present Games.

"Our athletes are winning because of the cheers of our *kababayans* (compatriots)," said Cojuangco. "We should continue cheering for them so we can win the overall championship."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has cut back on her attendance at the Games and toned down her hosannas to Filipino gold medal winners since Thaksin, her close friend and ally, raised questions about the officiating.

Low profile

Ms Arroyo had set a high profile since the start of the SEA Games Sunday, dropping in at event venues to cheer on the Philippine team and handing out medals to victorious Filipinos.

But since news broke out that Thailand was unhappy about the officiating and Thaksin called for a regional summit to uplift the spirit and standard of the Games, Ms Arroyo visibly retreated from the spotlight.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo had been talking less about the Philippine team's latest haul of golds because the medal tally was a "matter of public information which everybody is already following up."

While she might not be present in the Games, Bunye said Ms Arroyo "continues to encourage our athletes to go for gold and excel in all their activities."

"Let's not make the issue bigger. We prefer to let this issue quiet down. What is important is that Thai officials directly here have given their statement," Bunye said.

No meeting with Deputy PM

Bunye said the President had no plans to meet Thaksin's deputy Suwat Liptapanlop who is to arrive in the country today to attend the last stages and closing ceremonies of the SEA Games.

But since Ms Arroyo considers the Deputy Prime Minister a "very important official," Bunye said that "if a request is made (for a meeting with the President), I'm sure that will be granted." *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

General's conviction draws mixed reactions from soldiers, lawyers

By Fe Zamora

ONE ARMY COLONEL CALLED the verdict "good" while a civilian lawyer aiding soldiers involved in a mutiny dismissed it as merely for show.

These were the mixed reactions provoked by a military court's decision yesterday dishonorably discharging retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia from the service and sentencing him to two years detention at hard labor for not reporting his real assets.

Speaking on condition he would not be identified, the colonel, who is assigned with a brigade based south of Manila, said the conviction of Garcia was a "welcome development" in the Armed Forces.

"I would believe this sentiment is true AFP-wide," added the colonel, who had been calling for an end to corruption in the military establishment.

The colonel had provided the INQUIRER leads and documents on the alleged unexplained wealth of Garcia and of two other officers, retired Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot and Col. George Rabusa, who are facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the guilty verdict "sends a strong signal that any misconduct in our military will not be countenanced."

Just for show

But a lawyer for a group of officers who cited corruption among the reasons for a failed Army mutiny in July 2003, lashed out at the verdict as a "showcase" of the military's double-standard justice system.

"This is just a showcase to set the minds of the people into thinking that Garcia was already convicted on peripheral charges, and let him go free on the more serious charges of stealing public funds," lawyer Ruel Pulido said in a telephone interview.

"I want to see Garcia really go to prison, not just stay in some custodial center, unlike my clients who are in jail and they had not stolen a single cent from the government," Pulido said.

'Cannot challenge the law'

Pulido is the lead counsel of Navy Lt Sg. Antonio Trillanes IV, Lt Jg. James Layug and Captains Nick Faeldon, Milo Maestrecampo, Gerry Gambala and Gary Alejano who demanded that President Macapagal-Arroyo step down during a short-lived mutiny more than two years ago when rebel soldiers seized control of the posh Oakwood apartel in Makati City.

Retired Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, who was Garcia's classmate at the Philippine Military Academy, said the class would continue to lead moral support to the former military comptroller.

"He is a classmate of good standing, there's no question about that. But we cannot challenge the law," Dominguez said in a telephone interview.

A welcome signal

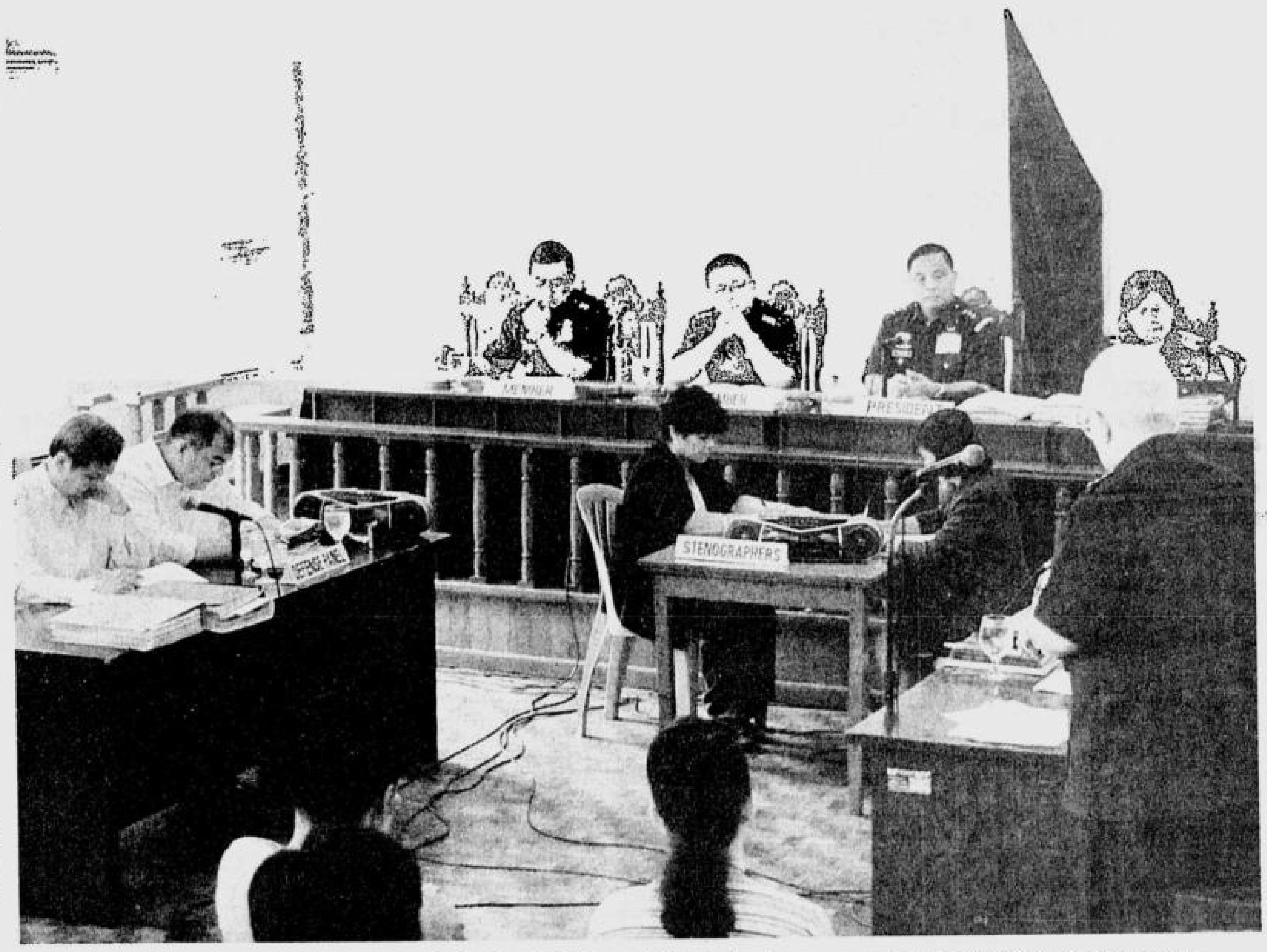
Garcia and Dominguez graduated from the PMA in 1971.

Fr. Ranhilio C. Aquino, dean of the San Beda School of Law, said the guilty verdict "should inspire confidence in the Army."

"Assuming the conviction is correct, it is a welcome signal, a hopeful signal, because a high-ranking Army man was made to answer for his accountability when usually it's the small fry who get fried and the big fish who get away," Aquino said.

Prof. Ildefonso Jimenez of the University of the Philippines' College of Law, however, said the military court verdict was just a first step toward the attainment of justice.

"The more important cases are pending before the Sandiganbayan," he said. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and PDI Research*



A MILITARY COURT tried (retired) Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia (2nd from left), who has become a symbol of corruption in the AFP and has opened the door to the filing of many other corruption charges against military officers. The 6-member court was led by Marine Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio.

AFP

Military court convicts Garcia

From page A1

Clarita's name.

But the court did not include in its judgment peso and dollar deposits in seven other banks since the prosecution was not able to prove the accounts were his.

Garcia was found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (Article of War 96) and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (Article of War 97).

His retirement benefits, held when he left the service, were also forfeited.

Crowning a trial that lasted two weeks shy of a year, the tribunal announced its verdict after three hours of closed-door deliberations.

Teodosio read the verdict, which took less than five minutes, as Garcia and his lawyers stood in front. The court did not give an explanation for the guilty verdict.

Senga, then GMA

The decision has to be approved by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga before it is sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo for a final stamp.

Garcia is the first general to be convicted in court-martial, said Doronila.

Garcia was arraigned on Nov. 16, 2004, two days before his compulsory retirement. In line with the court verdict, his records will reflect that he was dishonorably discharged.

"In close session and upon secret written ballot, (the court) sentences you to be dishonorably discharged from the service, to forfeit all pay and allowances due and to be confined to hard labor at such place the reviewing authority may direct for a period of two years. So ordered," Teodosio announced.

The six court members briskly filed out of the courtroom.

A brief smile

Television coverage of the promulgation showed Garcia seeming to sway as the verdict was being read.

His back was turned to the media, and reporters could not see his reaction. When he returned to his seat, his face was impassive.

One of his lawyers told reporters that Garcia had expected a guilty verdict.

He was not handcuffed, as is usually done to those convicted in civilian courts. In a court-martial, an accused is escorted by the military police.

Garcia managed to smile when military prosecutors Col. Pedro Herrera-Davila and Capt. Karen Ong approached him afterward.

Only sign of stress

Then he kept his face expressionless once more as he talked to his other lawyer, Constantino de Jesus, ignoring the TV cameras, photographers' flashbulbs and reporters asking to interview him.

The only sign of stress Garcia showed was when he smoked a cigarette while inside the courtroom.

None of his classmates ("mistah") in Philippine Military Academy Class '71 was around to hear the verdict. His brother, Philip, attended the hearing.

Under court-martial rules, the verdict has to be reviewed and approved by the AFP Chief of Staff, who is the reviewing authority.

Military prosecutor Capt. Candelaria Rivas said that theoretically, Senga could change the verdict.

No time limit

Senga can also either approve it or order a review.

If he approves the verdict, this is forwarded to the Office of the President for final approval. Only then is the judgment enforced.

If Senga orders a review, a Board of Review will be formed to restudy the court-martial's findings. The board's decision will be reviewed by the Judge Advocate General before it goes back to the chief of staff.

Rivas said there was no time limit to the process.

Garcia can appeal to Malacañang, she said, but he cannot appeal a military court decision before civilian courts.

Rivas said it was up to Senga to decide where Garcia would spend his two years at hard labor.

'Tried by publicity'

Garcia is currently detained at Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame.

Garcia's lawyer Maricel Capa said the defense would respect the court-martial process and hope the verdict would be reversed upon review.

"We're disappointed with the decision and the punishment. How can you dishonorably discharge (Garcia) if the guy has already retired?" she said.

She said Garcia had expected the outcome after having been subjected to trial by publicity last year.

"Even before we started, we have seen it. A lot of things have been said already about him. And it's difficult really to change what has been said," she said.

The other court members were Army Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, Army Lt. Gen. Alan Cabalquinto, Air Force Maj. Gen. Jaime Viernes, Navy Rear Adm. Abraham Abesamis and law member Col. Caridad Aguilar.

RP inventor wins gold …

From page A1

cer was found in 60 percent of Filipinos. He said this estimate was based on statistics from the Philippine General Hospital and other hospitals in the country.

Talens said the disease was common among the elderly owing to their chronic exposure to the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.

"It doesn't happen instantaneously," he told reporters. "It takes years of exposure to get skin cancer."

He added that lighter-skinned people were more vulnerable to the disease. Darker-skinned individuals have more melanin to protect their skin from ultraviolet rays.

If untreated, skin cancer could disfigure the face, affecting the function of the eyes and nose.

For the trial, Talens, a surgeon with the PGH, treated 14 skin cancer patients using the cream. It was applied to "the very delicate area of the face initially thought of as hopeless by some doctors and rejected by most plastic surgeons," according to a statement by De la Cruz's company.

De la Cruz said the skin cancer patients were cured in 16 weeks with no recurrence even after two years.

"By mere application of the cream, with no radical and unacceptable surgeries or procedures, the patients' skin cancers were cured," the statement said.

"There were no side effects," he added.

The results were submitted to the Germany-based award-giving body, earning the top price for the Philippine-made cream.

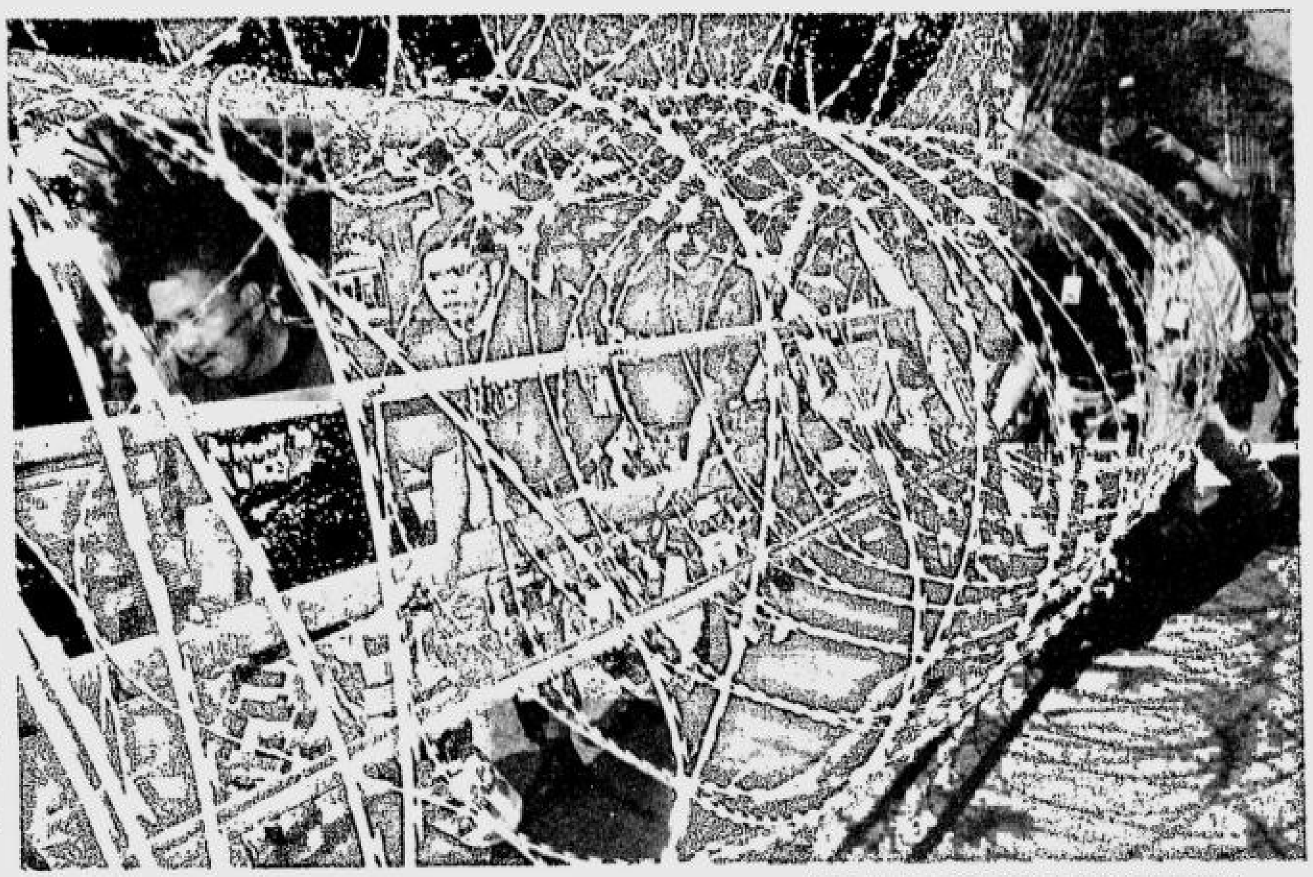
De la Cruz said multinational companies from the US, Germany and other European countries had offered to produce DeBCC.

Having completed the required clinical trial, Talens said he and De la Cruz were in the process of securing a certificate from the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

De la Cruz said treatment using DeBCC could range from a minimum of P30,000 to a maximum of P250,000 depending on the size and gravity of the skin cancer.

He said one treatment could last for nine months by applying the cream to the affected portion of the face twice monthly.

The cream is available only at De la Cruz's Amazing Touch clinics in shopping malls.



"OPENING AVENUES FOR PEACE," the Presidential Security Group says by way of explaining the dismantling of barbed wire and other barriers in Mendiola and in other streets leading to the Palace. ERIK ARAZAS

With barbed wire gone, Palace a fortress no more

From page A1

that used to block its gates and has rolled out a "Who would say no to peace?" streamer in their stead. And in keeping with the spirit of the season, the barbed wire fences that used to keep "unwanted elements" out of the Palace will be turned into, uh, Christmas trees.

Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit, Presidential Security Group (PSG) commander, ordered the removal of the barricades "after a careful and thorough assessment of the security situation in the area and in consideration of the Yuletide season."

Bangit said the barbed wire would be transformed into Christmas trees which would be decorated by students of La Consolacion College.

As of yesterday, Malacañang ceased to be a fortress or a war zone for its politically battered occupants. On the Palace gate facing Mendiola—the scene of many rallies against the Arroyo administration—hung a white streamer with the words, "Who would say No to peace?"

PSG guards at the gates were also made to wear white T-shirts bearing the same message, and more.

Quite out of character, the guards asked pedestrians at the gate what they thought of the T-shirts. This turned off quite a few people.

Upbeat mood

Nevertheless, Malacañang's mood remained upbeat.

"We have said it before and we will say it again: We believe the worst of the crisis is over," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said, when asked if the removal of the barriers was an indication that the political situation was easing up.

"We felt that people wanted normalcy around Malacañang," Bangit said.

He added that it was also their way of welcoming the Christmas season and proclaiming a "new atmosphere of peace."

Still, the PSG chief insisted that security at the Palace gates would be reinforced "every time we feel that there is a security threat against the seat of government and the President."

"The security system will be enforced but there will no longer be the psychological effect of a war zone [around the Palace]," Bangit said.

Manila Police District (MPD) director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, who fully supported the PSG's initiative, removed the fences earlier put up on J.P. Laurel, Solano, Padilla, Mendiola and Arlegui streets.

Beginning of peace

"We hope this is the beginning of peace and unity in the area," Bulaong said in a statement.

The police chief, however, stressed that they would still implement security measures in the area, including the "no permit, no rally" policy.

Bangit agreed, explaining that routine checks and vehicle inspections would still be enforced to ensure security at the complex.

He added that they would soon implement a new vehicle traffic scheme that would be more convenient for motorists passing the area.

The chair of the barangay around Malacañang (Malbar) said the PSG and MPD's move was a "generous Christmas gift."

According to barangay chair Prescilla Asuncion, the removal of the barricades "will make the atmosphere in the protected area of Malacañang more relaxed this Christmas."

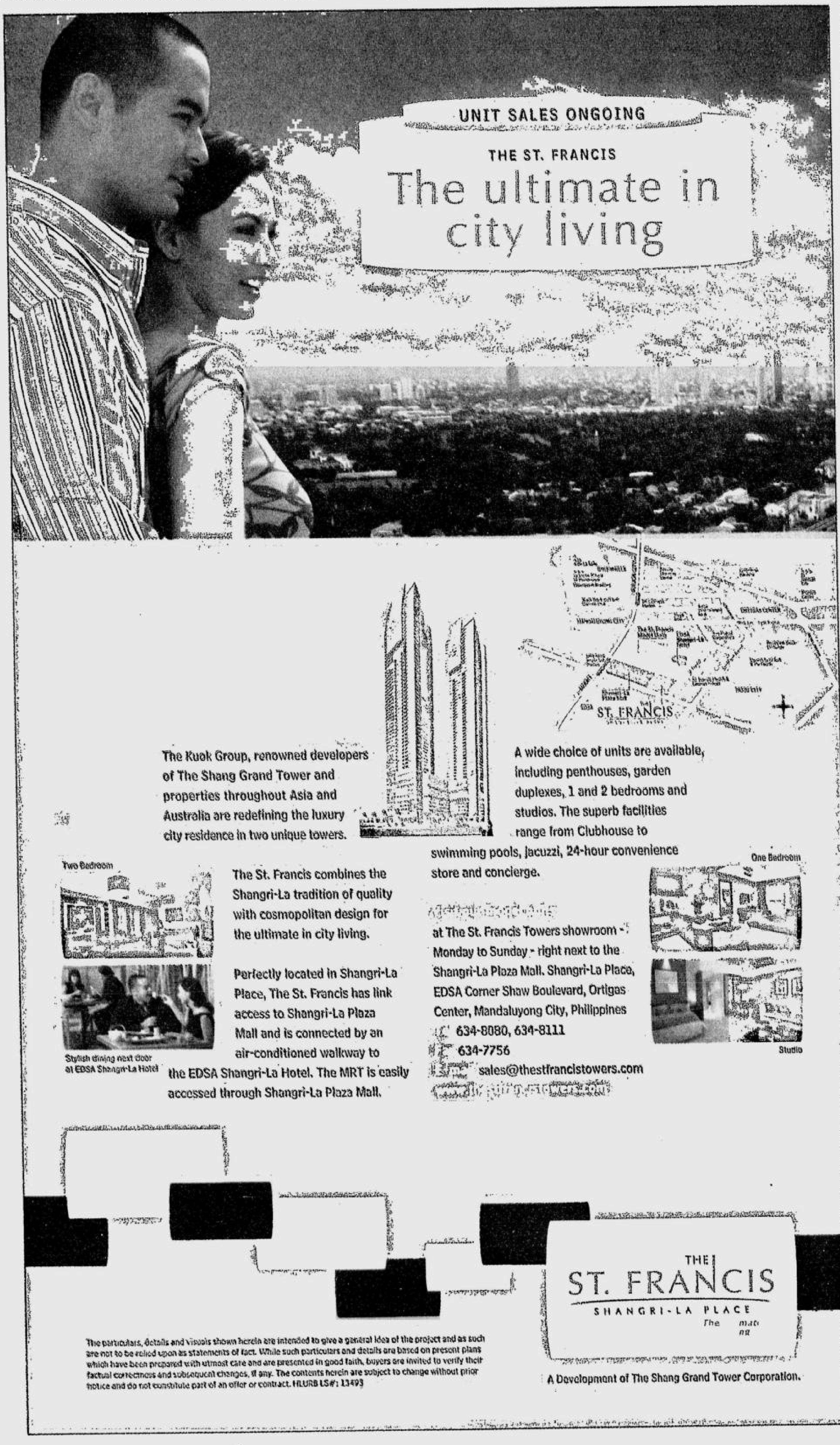
In his news briefing, Bunye told reporters that Bangit had informed the Palace about the PSG plan to remove the barriers just the other day.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo approved the plan noting that this was "in keeping with the Christmas spirit."

He added that other establishments like schools in the Malacañang area also welcomed the PSG move.

House Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero, who was at the Palace to receive an award from Ms Arroyo, said the removal of the barriers was a "good sign." *(Story on Page A2.)*

"Malacañang should be open to the Filipino people; it should not be a fortress or a camp that denies entry to those wanting to tell their problems to those in power," Escudero said in Filipino.



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Service roads off limits to provincial buses

By Tarra V. Quismundo

PROVINCIAL BUSES WILL SOON BE REquired to use underpasses and flyovers along Edsa to ease traffic on the major thoroughfare by bypassing its crammed service roads.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said yesterday provincial bus companies would soon be told to refrain from using both southbound and northbound service roads on Edsa.

Previously, bypasses on the avenue had been reserved for the exclusive use of private vehicles when the MMDA implemented its yellow lanes scheme. The plan limited all buses to only two outermost lanes of Edsa.

"Right now, these buses still load and unload passengers on service roads, thus adding to traffic problems," Vergel de Dios said yesterday.

The agency was prompted to draw up the new regulation after it received reports that provincial buses lining both sides of Edsa in the Cubao (Quezon City) area had been habitually lining up on the service roads to wait for passengers, despite signs prohibiting them from doing so. "We hope to begin the implementation of the scheme by Monday," said the traffic chief.

Edsa's service roads include outermost lanes used by vehicles to access roads bypassed by tunnels or underpasses and flyovers. Buses had been restricted to using only these lanes when the MMDA designated bus lanes on the thoroughfare to segregate private and public utility vehicles.

The agency had long banned provincial operation buses from loading and unloading on Edsa, and encouraged these units to drop off passengers only at their terminals.

Enforcement of this regulation, however, had not gone smoothly as provincial buses inevitably stopped to fetch and unload passengers when using the service roads.

There are three underpasses on the 24-kilometer Edsa stretch, including those providing a shortcut to avoid the thoroughfare's crammed intersections at Aurora Boulevard, Shaw Boulevard, and Ayala Avenue. Three flyovers are by Ortigas Avenue, an elevated pass near Kamuning Road and East Avenue intersections, and another off Quezon Avenue.

COOL WEEKEND

No mall rats, these children indulge in horseplay at the leafy University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

JOAN BONDOC

Marikina opens wonderland by riverside

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

CINDERELLA, RAPUNZEL, HARRY Potter, Peter Pan, Aladdin and even Shrek are waiting for you by the Marikina River.

In a bid to boost tourism, the Marikina City government is transforming its River Park into a "Christmas Funtasia" with life-sized sculptures of fairy tale and cartoon characters, as well as replicas of castles. The entrance features a huge arc resembling a castle.

Formally opened the other night with a two-hour lantern parade, the park featured items made by the city's 15 barangays that would be competing for prizes totaling P160,000.

Winners will be announced early in January, the city public information said. The first prize winner gets P80,000, the second placer gets P50,000 while P30,000 will be given as third prize.

Each display stands on about 64-sq.-m. space. Admission is free.

The city government gave each barangay a budget of P40,000 for the display. Some communities raised additional money when needed.

Barangays drew lots to determine the themes of their displays. Featured are the Little Mermaid, Ibong Adarna, Rapunzel, Shrek, Dragonheart, Harry Potter, Beauty and the Beast, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Sleeping Beauty, Lord of the Rings, Robinhood, Aladdin, Peter Pan, Cinderella and King Arthur, and a sculpture of a horse reportedly worth P60,000.

P30 million in fake Nestlé products seized

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVEStigation (NBI) confiscated P30 million worth of fake Nestlé products and sophisticated production machines in simultaneous raids in Quezon and Caloocan cities early this week.

"This is the biggest haul of counterfeit Nestlé items in the country so far," NBI National Capital Region (NCR) Director Ruel Lasala told reporters.

"The company's lawyers said the factory, with its state-of-the-art machines, was equivalent to an entire Nestlé production segment," Lasala said.

NBI agents confiscated seven truckloads of Nescafe, Bear Brand, Milo and Coffeemate products from a warehouse in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City.

"We handed the products over to the Bureau of Food and Drugs for examination," NBI NCR executive officer Rosauro Bautista said. The products, he added, did not pass quality control.

NBI operatives also seized nine production machines from a residential compound on Speaker Perez Street, Quezon City.

Lasala said the machines, all imported from China, were capable of manufacturing 150,000 sachets of Nestlé products per day.

"This illegal operation was a big blow to Nestlé," Lasala stressed. He said the products were mostly sold and distributed in the provinces.

Charges of violation of the Intellectual Property Rights Code were filed against alleged owner So Eng Ge, the NBI officials said.

A nation of cheats?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

EVEN IF WE WON OUR gold medals fair and square, can we blame other countries for thinking that we cheated in the Southeast Asian Games?

No less than Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra accused the Philippines, the SEA Games host, of cheating.

But can we blame them, given the reports that we ourselves announce to the world about our country?

Election fraud. Cheating in the board and bar exams. Corruption in government and in the private sector. Foreigners falling victim to holdup men and con artists. Policemen fleecing foreign tourists. These are news items about the Philippines that reach foreign countries.

And, let's face it, cheating is prevalent in our society. We admire cheats as long as they don't get caught.

A couple of years ago, winning entries to the Manila Film Festival were announced on stage. The names of the winners were not called; the losers were the ones whose names were announced.

"Take it, take it," said the emcee of the show to an actress who didn't win in the tally but who was called on stage to claim the winner's trophy.

Sen. Alfredo Lim, then the mayor of Manila, couldn't stomach the shenanigans and went up the stage to denounce the fraud. There was a big scandal and an investigation was conducted. But nothing came out of the investigation.

The "*pasimuno*" (mastermind) of the blatant cheating lay low for a while from the limelight. But where is she now? She is the host of a popular show biz show. People have forgotten what she did.

It's a case of the boy who cried "wolf" too often for our country. Even when we're honest, other nations don't believe us.

* * *

I am not being unpatriotic in playing the devil's advocate in the SEA Games controversy but somebody's got to tell us the view from outside.

Let's go to Saudi Arabia that employs millions of Filipino workers. Do you know what most Saudis think about Pinoys? Oh, you wouldn't want to hear this, but the general perception in that country is that Filipinos are thieves!

When Filipinos window-shop in the flea market in Saudi Arabia, the shopkeepers keep close watch on them. Why? Because many shops, especially those selling jewelry, have fallen victim to the Pinoy's *salisi* method of stealing. "Salisi" means taking advantage while the storekeeper is busy with the other customers.

I once had a friend who had an employment agency that sent doctors and nurses to the United States. She said many hospitals that hired foreign doctors and nurses complained of pilferage of hospital equipment by the Filipino staff.

During the time of Imelda Marcos' travels abroad, hotels where she and her entourage stayed would give allowance for pilferage of hotel bed sheets, towels and other small items, and charge the theft to the Philippine government.

You want to listen more to the Pinoy's propensity for taking things that don't belong to him?

Here goes: After the Americans left Clark Air Base in Pampanga, there was massive pilferage of items within the former US military base. Even the toilet bowls in the former houses of servicemen were stolen.

Many of the looted items taken from Clark were found in a restaurant and a house in Cebu owned by a military general who was still in the active service at that time.

The saving grace was the state of the former Subic Naval Base after the Americans had left: Nothing was lost only because Richard Gordon employed strong-arm methods in dealing with thieves.

* * *

It's natural for us to get hurt—very hurt—by the accusation that we're a nation of cheats. But we have to face reality: We have destroyed our reputation as a nation because of reports that come out in the media about our country.

As the police chief in the movie "Casablanca" said: "Round up the usual suspects."

We are the usual suspects.

METROBRIEFS

Thieves go shopping, too

POLICE are reminding shoppers trooping to malls, bazaars and public markets this Christmas season to be cautious. "People should be very vigilant when going to crowded areas, where robbers and thieves are waiting to prey on them," Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela told the INQUIRER. The usual but commonly neglected tip: don't flaunt your cell phones, which remain to be the hottest items for pickpockets, snatchers and holdup men. The police district has already intensified security measures in key areas like the Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan. The National Capital Region Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines has already sent at least 45 members of the Philippine Marines and the Philippine Air Force to help police efforts. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Christian-Muslim seminar

QUEZON City Parks Development Foundation president Charito Planas will spearhead a Christian-Muslim Understanding and Unity seminar at the Quezon Memorial Circle Multi-Purpose Hall from 1-5 p.m. today. Selected junior students from secondary schools in Quezon City and Manila, who will be oriented on Muslim culture, will be the participants in the seminar. Now on its second year, this inter-agency undertaking is supported by Department of Education Undersecretary Manaros Boransing, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Office on Muslim Affairs Executive Director Undersecretary Sultan Yahyah Jerry Tomawis, Dr. Ma. Luisa Quiñones and Dr. Victoria Fuentes, schools division superintendents of Manila and Quezon City, respectively and Fil-Mus Filipino Islamic Da'wah Foundation

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Customs collections off target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) HAS seized some P500 million worth of various smuggled goods this year as of November.

But the bureau admitted the amount paled in comparison to revenue losses due to the illegal activity.

The BOC's revenue collection shortfall was placed at P8.9-billion as of the first 10 months of the year.

Customs Commissioner Alexander Arevalo said the seizure of the hot goods was a result of the BOC's renewed anti-smuggling campaign. The BOC linked up with private sector with resources to detect smuggling.

He said "the BOC can only inspect 5 to 10 percent of all shipments." Current resources of the bureau, Arevalo said, were insufficient to combat effectively the perennial problem of smuggling. He added that the BOC was planning to purchase next year more X-ray machines to verify import declarations.

"The machines will be deployed in the country's five major ports to help in our anti-smuggling work," Arevalo told the media.

It is estimated the government loses P200 billion a year in potential duties due to technical and actual smuggling, which has also been blamed for making many legitimate businesses uncompetitive.

The Department of Finance, of which the BOC is part, estimated earlier that the government lost P9.5 billion annually due to oil smuggling alone.

BALANCING ACT
A cigarette and candy vendor crosses a busy street in Manila with his precious cargo. JESS YUSON

Rebels' case to family court

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAKATI COURT ORDERED YESTERDAY THE transfer to a family court of a rebellion case against alleged members of groups linked to the suspected regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah.

Citing lack of jurisdiction, Judge Encarnacion Moya of the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 146 paved the way for another raffle of the rebellion case the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed early last month against at least 21 accused.

Alleged members of the Rajah Solaiman Movement and leaders of the Abu Sayyaf Group were among the accused.

Moya's decision was a response to a motion by public attorney Ramoncito Ocampo Jr., counsel for three of eight detainees, seeking the dismissal of the case. Ocampo argued one of the accused was a minor.

Apart from the 17-year-old suspect, Ocampo was also assigned to defend alleged RSM founder Hilarion Santos and his wife, Hannah Santos, who were among eight arrested in Zamboanga in October.

Age as proof

The judge found sufficient evidence submitted by Ocampo proving his client's age. The lawyer presented a copy of her birth certificate from the National Statistics Office and an affidavit from the mother attesting her daughter was born in 1988.

Moya denied Ocampo's motion to dismiss the case, saying it was not the proper remedy for the overlooked age issue. Hence, her order to transfer the case.

Under the Family Courts Act of 1997, regular courts do not have jurisdiction over cases involving minors.

"It is found that [accused] is indeed a minor at the time the alleged crime was committed. It is the finding of this court that the criminal information need not be quashed nor should be dismissed. Rather, the case should be transferred to a family court, which has the proper jurisdiction," Moya said in her single-page order.

The Makati RTC Office of the Clerk of Court would administer the case's re-raffle among Makati's four family courts.

The court suspended further proceedings on the case, including the arraignment of seven other accused in custody.

In opposing Ocampo's dismissal plea, Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, lead prosecutor, said, "Quashal of the entire criminal information is not the legal remedy, but [instead it is] the immediate turnover of the case to the Executive Judge to be re-raffled among the family courts."

Velasco said neither the Rules of Court nor any of the Supreme Court's administrative circulars provided for a case's dismissal upon the belated discovery that among those involved was a minor. "The accused did not disclose nor volunteer information to arresting officers that she was still a minor. Authorities and prosecutors did know her true age when the case was filed," he said.

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Mighty Molina seizes 3rd gold

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MIGUEL Molina celebrates his third victory in the 200-meter breastroke. EDWIN BACASMAS

LOS BAÑOS—MIGUEL MOLINA SINGLEhandedly matched yesterday the country's three swim golds in Vietnam two years ago and Miguel Mendoza put in another winning act for the Philippines in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The Fil-Am girls and the women's relay team also delivered three silver medals that pumped life into the big crowd at the Trace Aquatics Center, who were disappointed after Thursday's medal shutout.

Molina won his third gold medal while improving the national record in the men's 200-meter breaststroke and Mendoza retained his title in the men's 1,500 meter freestyle.

The 21-year-old Molina, the 400 and 200 individual medley champion, clocked two minutes and 16.88 seconds, erasing his own record of 2:18.71 he set this year in the World Championships in Montreal.

The University of California-Berkeley student will still gun for the gold in today's men's 200m freestyle, where he won his lone SEAG gold two years ago in Vietnam.

"I don't want to expect anything because I don't want to put any pressure on me," said Molina.

Molina beat Vietnam silver winner Vorrawuti Aumpiwan of Thailand (2:17.56) and Radomyos Matjuir also of Thailand (2:21.92). RP's other bet, 17-year-old Gerard Gabriel Bordado placed sixth in 2:23.95.

Mendoza led until the 18th turn when silver winner Charnvudth Saengsri of Thailand overtook him, but the 22-year-old University of Georgia stalwart grabbed the lead in the last two turns to clock 15:47.36.

The Thai finished in 15:54.55, while Filipino Ryan Arabejo bagged the bronze (16:09.88).

The women's 4x100m medley relay team of Lizza Danila, Jacklyn Pangilinan, Erica Totten

MIGHTY/ A26

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SEA Games MEDAL TALLY

Country	G	S	B	Total
Philippines	73	52	55	180
Thailand	46	53	73	172
Vietnam	46	46	53	145
Malaysia	40	30	35	105
Indonesia	26	44	46	116
Singapore	26	19	33	78
Myanmar	9	13	34	56
Laos	1	3	5	9
Brunei	0	2	2	4
Cambodia	0	1	3	4
Timor Leste	0	0	0	0
Total	267	263	339	869

Medal tally (As of 8:30 p.m. December 2, 2005)
— from the Philsoc website

Mazda Celebrates Ford Day with FREE Mazda Solutions

As a major part of the Ford family, Mazda Philippines will be offering the Mazda Solutions package at no cost for every Mazda vehicle sold on December 3. This is in conjunction with the Ford day festivities that will be held at the Fort from 10:00am to 7:00pm.

Mazda Solutions is a value-for-money offer that is a step above the already superb three-year service warranty and a one-year Emergency Roadside Assistance (ERA) package in every Mazda6, Mazda3 and Mazda Tribute. Mazda Solutions includes a one-year Comprehensive Vehicle Insurance (CVI) with a three-year Comprehensive Third Party Liability (CTPL), and a one-year Scheduled Service Plan (SSP).

Mazda's Comprehensive Vehicle Insurance (CVI) is a value-packed insurance product that provides the new Mazda owner industry-leading levels of service such as a Multiyear Insurance coverage available for a maximum of 5 years where customer is price protected for potential rate increases; loss of use allowance (a policy holder is given an allowance of Php500 per day from the day repair starts on the vehicle up to the day when repair is completed); Finance Gap, first in the industry feature that protects the customer from their financing loan in the event of total loss; a Five-year CASA repair (a guarantee repair of vehicles at franchised dealership using genuine parts and service up to the 5th year); Automatic repair authorization, a guarantee to start repair within 24 hours from the time the vehicle is sent to the dealership for repair utilizing only genuine Mazda parts and service.

Another unique offering available in the Mazda Solutions package is the Scheduled Service Plan (SSP). The SSP is a Pre-paid Maintenance Service Package that customers may acquire upfront for future maintenance service requirements of their vehicle, which helps the Mazda owner keep his vehicle in tip-top shape, conveniently and economically. It covers for the costs of the parts, labor, materials and applicable taxes and mechanicals of the vehicle of the required service intervals.

"Mazda Philippines is making this offer available to the new Mazda owner as proof of its unwavering commitment in providing products that offer value for money and peace of mind, values deeply embedded in the Ford group of companies, which Mazda is part of," says Mazda Philippines managing director Gerry Alejandro.

One can test drive the smooth and stylish Mazda line- the Mazda6, Mazda3 and the Mazda Tribute in the annual Ford Day celebrations at The Fort today, and every purchase of any of these Mazda vehicles comes with free Mazda Solutions - a complete and easy ownership experience from Mazda. You can visit the following showrooms for more information: Mazda Quezon Avenue at Quezon Ave., Sto. Domingo, Quezon City; Mazda Greenhills at EDSA corner Rocester Street, Greenhills East, Mazda Alabang at Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa, and the newly opened Mazda Makati at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo).

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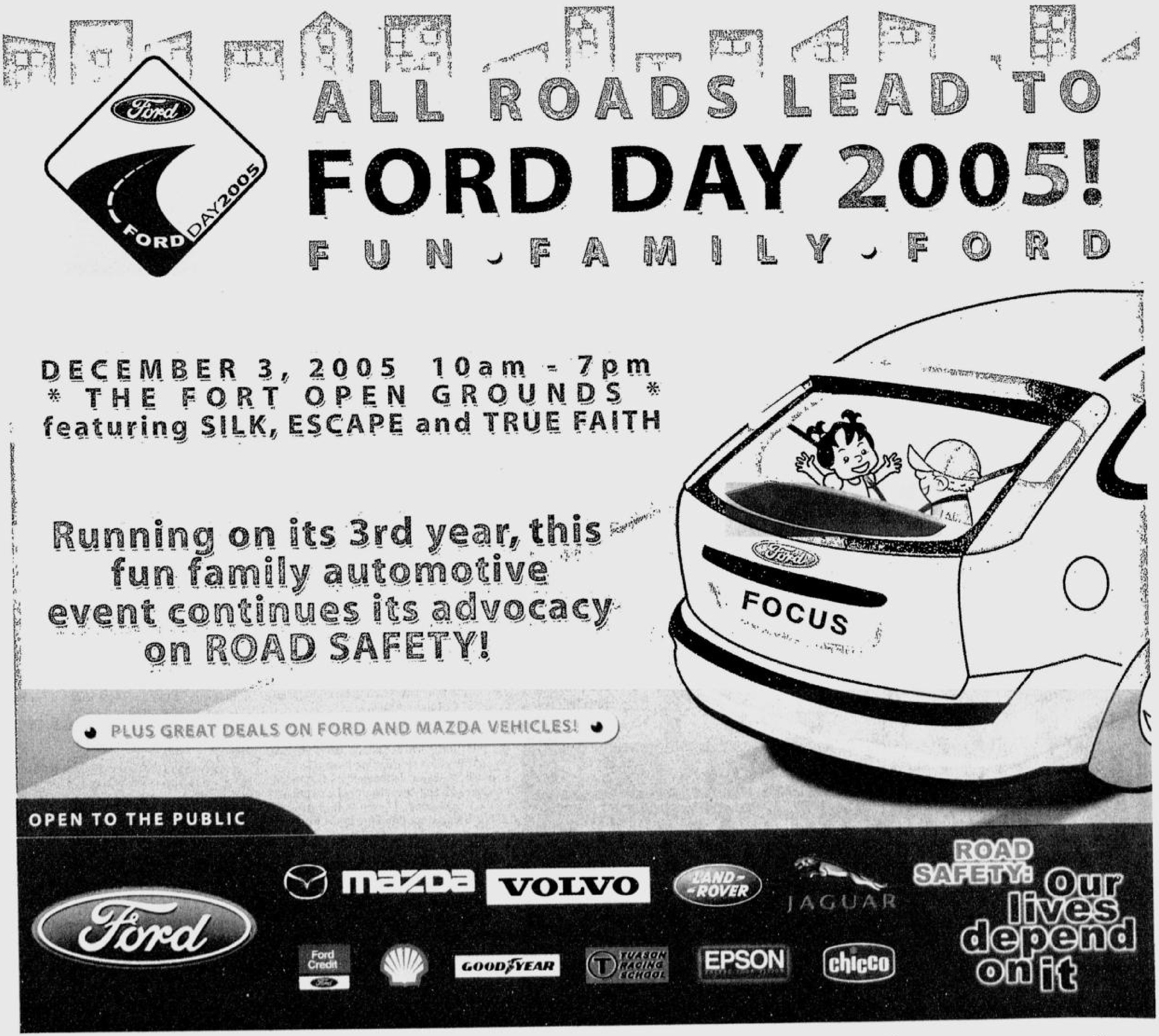

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5 more join 7 RP boxers in gold hunt

By Recah Trinidad

BACOLOD CITY—A GRIM RIVALRY FOR REGIONAL SUPREMACY REACHES A new climax here today when the Philippines and Thailand pit their finest sinonpures amid charges of rigged scoring on the closing day of the Southeast Asian boxing championships at the La Salle Coliseum.

The Philippines has sent a total of 12 boxers (out of 14 slots contested) to the finals after five more RP fighters advanced into the gold medal round yesterday.

The RP men's squad is up 3-1 against Thailand, but with five men's final bouts pitting Thais versus Filipinos, today's outcome will decide the championship on the sixth and final day of raging action.

Slugger Joegen Ladon is the underdog against Wirapoh Petkhum, the classy Thai featherweight who won the silver medal in last year's Athens Olympics.

Other RP-Thai title bouts pit bantamweight Joan Tipon against Tangtong Klongjian, light welterweight Romeo Brin versus Pachai Soyota, welterweight Mark Jason Melligen against Non Boonjamong, and middleweight Reynaldo Galido against Suriya Prasatthinphimai.

The RP female team, which suffered its first loss when light flyweight Annaliza Cruz was outpointed, 11-19, by Thailand's Usanakorn Wilsuwatwang in yesterday's semifinals, will send pinweight Kate Aparri, flyweight Annie Albania, bantamweight Jouveliet Chilem and lightweight Mitchel Martinez, to the gold hunt.

Martinez, reigning Asian champ, stopped Viet Dinh Thi Puong, 19-4, in the first round yesterday.

Flyweight Harry Tañamor of Zamboanga, who earlier tamed Thai Suban Pannon, overwhelmed Malaysia's Zamzadi Azizi Bin Mohd, 29-9, for an automatic stoppage in the third round.

Tañamor, the lone RP gold medalist in boxing in the 2003 Vietnam Games, defends his title against Myanmar's KyawSwan Aung today.

Genebert Basadre of Cagayan de Oro, beat rugged Paunandes Bin Paulus of Malaysia, 29-9, and will meet Indonesia's Miftah Rifa Lubis for the lightweight gold today.

Millegin earned the right to go for the welterweight gold against Boojunmong after an easy stoppage of Cambodia's Min Saheng yesterday.

Basadre mauled Thai Tun Dansamak on Nov. 30 before pinweight Jake Magliquian outpointed another Thai, Keanus Pangpayoon, 37-25 on Thursday, with the result drawing a complaint from the Thai coaching staff who insisted their fighter had thrown enough punches to merit a victory.

"I dare them to lodge a protest," exclaimed Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez, who has inhibited himself from the jury board in this tournament.

"Pangpayoon threw many punches but they were not landing in the scoring areas, Millegen defended well and had the clearer scoring hits," explained tournament director Rogelio Fortaleza.

With reports of alleged unfair scoring emanating from the office of the Thai Prime Minister in Bangkok, the head of the Amateur Boxing Association of Thailand, Gen.Toweep Jantaparon, has assured Lopez they find no reason to complain about the conduct of the event here.

THE PHILIPPINES' Joan Tipon slugs it out with Laotian Sayyalak Chathasone in the semifinals of the bantamweight division. REM ZAMORA

Figueroa falls, but 4 archers still on target

By June Navarro

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THERE WERE NO DRUMS beating from the gallery meant to shake her rival off. Jasmine Figueroa simply succumbed to pressure.

Tournament favorite Rina Dewi Puspita Sari of Indonesia booted out Figueroa to advance into the semifinal round of the women's individual recurve yesterday in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games archery competitions at the Remy Field here.

Sari, the 2003 Vietnam games gold medalist, survived a six-point deficit with three arrows left in the 12-arrow, 70-meter event to post a 96-95 squeaker over the country's top woman archer.

Figueroa also yielded to Sari in the elimination round of the same event two years ago.

Despite Figueroa's early exit, the other Filipino archers remained in contention for the overall title after Rachelle Ann Cabral (women's recurve), Amaya Paz (women's compound), Jennifer Chan (women's compound) and Marvin Cordero (men's compound) advanced to the next phase.

Cabral toppled Anabarasi Subraimaniam of Indonesia, 104-99, Paz edged Indonesian Lilies Heliarti, 99-98, Chan subdued Narisara Timbua (Thailand), 108-105, and Cordero dethroned defending titlist Muhammad Marbawi Sulaiman of Malaysia, 197-105.

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Mamiit through; Taino ousted

By Musong R. Castillo

THIS TIME, THE DANCE CAME WITH good reason.

Cecil Mamiit of the Philippines put himself in the men's singles finals, but not after being pushed to the limit for the first time in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday.

The Fil-Am ace slipped past Indonesian Prima Simpatiaji, 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-4), in the semifinals then went through his usual post-match gyration on center court to the delight of the cheering crowd.

The good-natured, second-seeded Mamiit, who has not dropped a set so far, will seek the title today against top-ranked Thai Danai Udomchoke, who clawed back from a 2-5 deficit in the first set to bundle out RP No. 2 Eric Taino, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

Udomchoke, the world No. 129, took a little time in getting into the groove and Taino's fall was aided by a strained quadricep muscle.

Mamiit and Udomchoke clash for the gold at 3 p.m. even as Wynne Prakusya and Romana Tedjakusuma arranged an all-Indon fight for the women's singles gold after hammering separate Thai foes.

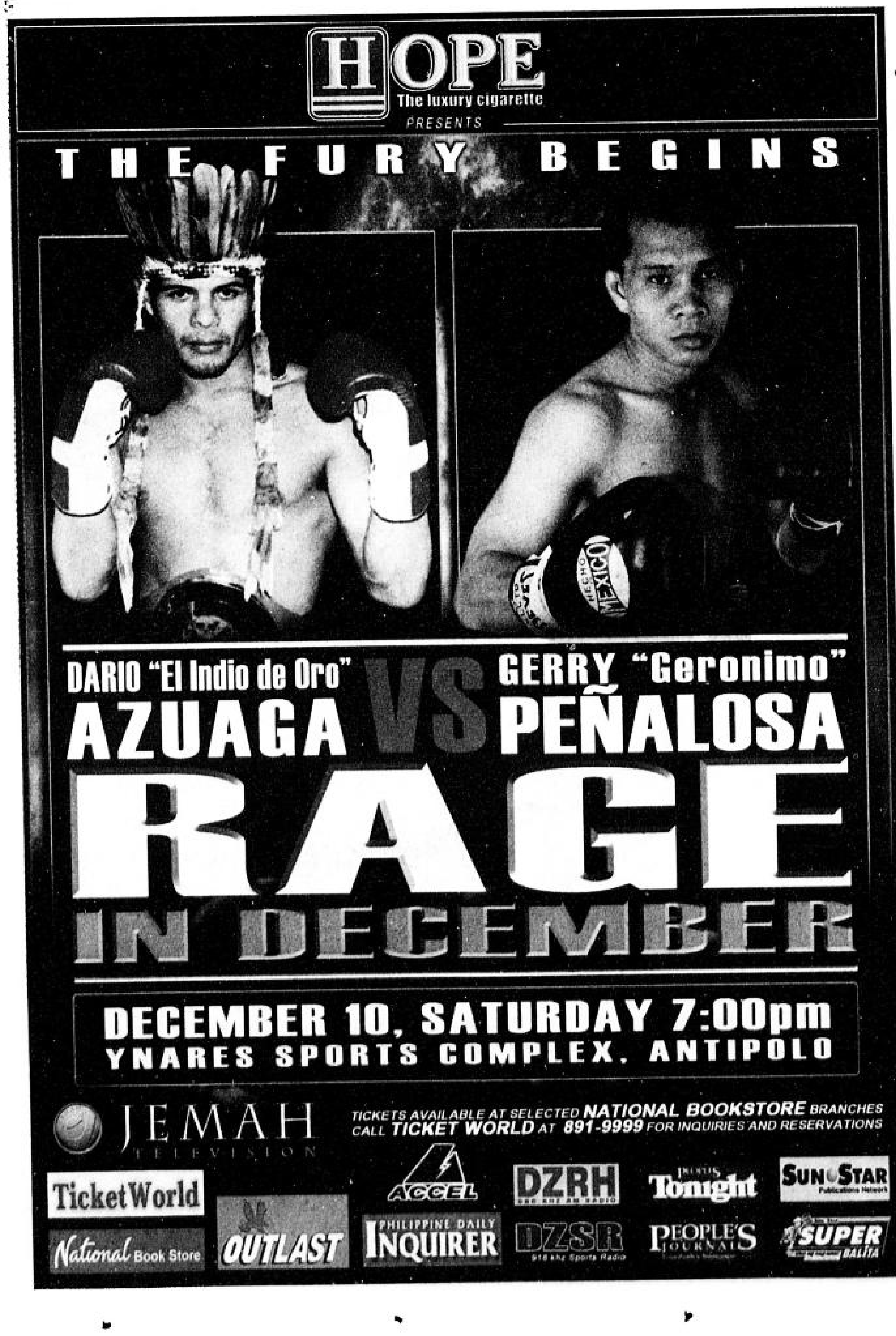
No. 2 Prakusya, runner-up to Maricris Fernandez in 1999 when the Philippines won the women's gold for the last time, pummelled No. 3 Napapom Thongsalee with a solid baseline game to prevail, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 in just over two hours.

Tadjakusuma took out top seed Suchanan Viratprasert, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Mamiit politely declined interviews from reporters until after the doubles semifinals with Taino against Simpatiaji and Sunuwahyu Trijati, which was rained out yesterday.

Twins Sanchair and Sonchat Ratiwatana of Thailand clinched the first slot in the men's doubles finals after a 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 decision of Indons Suwandi Suwandi and Bonit Wiryawan. *With a report from Apolinario Mapacpac*

MAMIIT returns a shot against Indon Prima Simpatiaji yesterday. RYAN LIM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SUPER BALITA

Juvic, RP team share top spot after 36 holes

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG, LAGUNA—JUVIC PAGUNSAN fired a second straight one-under-par 69 to vault into a tie for the individual lead while lifting the Philippines to a share of top spot with Singapore in the men's team play of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games golf tournament yesterday.

Pagunsan, gold medalist when golf was last played in the 2001 Games in Malaysia, birdied the last two holes to overcome a double bogey and tie Singaporean darkhorse Choo Tze Huang, who shot a 71, for the 36-hole lead at 138.

Marvin Dumandan also shot a 69 and Jay Bayron again counted with a 72 as Team Philippines produced a day-best 210 total which shoved the Filipinos on top with the Singaporeans with 214 aggregates at the posh The Country Club here.

But the Filipino girls somewhat struggled as they trailed Thailand and Indonesia by two strokes at the start of women's action with Jayvie Marie Agojo pacing the host team with a 72.

The Thais and the Indons showed the way with 144 totals with the Filipinos close behind at 146 after Frances Bondad came up with a 74 in the three-to-play, two-to-count format of the 54-hole competition.

Quek Peng Xiang was the high-point man for Singapore after a 70 and one of the 73 of Long Kit Wai or Goh Kun Yangeven as Burma (Myanmar) dropped to solo third from second with Thien Zaw Myint, who was tied for the individual lead after a 67 on Thursday, skied to a 75.

The Burmese got a 70 from Zaw Zin Win and a 71 from Bo Bo for a 213 for the day and 429 for the tournament, five behind the joint team leaders and five ahead of struggling Thailand.

Ekalak Waysayakul submitted a 71, Pornpong Phatlum a 72 and Anujit Hirunrathanakorn a 74 for the Thai's second 217 even as the highly touted Ben Leong groped for form in the winds and struggled on the greens for a disappointing 74 for Malaysia.

Waysayakul trailed Pagunsan and Choo by a stroke and a further two shots back in solo fourth was Zaw Zaw Win, whose 70 paced Burma (Myanmar) and gave him 141 after 36 holes.

The Malaysians dropped to fifth in the standings, 12 shots behind the Philippines and Singapore as Mohd Sukree Othman's 73 turned out to be their best and Siva Chandhran and Lim Eng Seng tying Leong's output.

Indonesia's Juriah shot four birdies against a lone bogey for a 68 to grab the women's individual lead and cushion the 76 of Lidia Ivina Jaya.

Nontaya Srisawang signed for a 70 and Suteera Chanachi added a 74 for Thailand, the defending team champion.

Singapore occupied fourth spot at 154 after a 76 from Koh Sock Hwee and a 78 from Heng Su-Ann.

Burmese Khin Thu Thu carded the third and last sub-par round in ladies' play, a 71, but an 86 from teammate Aye Aye San pulled Burma to solo fifth at 157, 13 strokes off the pace.

Only Pagunsan and Dumandan were able to crack par on another windy and testy day at the 7,158-yard layout playing to a par 70 for the men's division and par 72 for the women's.

Juvic could have taken the solo lead if not for a double bogey, his second straight in the tournament, on No. 4.

Dumandan made the turn at one-over 37 and salvaged his round with a string of three birdies from No. 12 to climb into a tie for fifth spot in individual play at 142 with Myint and Andik Mailudin of Indonesia.

"We're in a position where we want to be for the final two rounds," said ret. Gen. Roberto Sabularze, the RP men's team captain.

AGOJO: Leads RP with 72. JUN RAPANAN

LEAD BROADCASTER
ABC
Iba Tayo!

Paz, Filipino sailing pair sink opposition in Subic

By June Navarro

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—GERMAN PAZ LORDED IT over in the boardsailing event while Ridgely Balladares and Rommel Chavez finished at the top of the 470 class yesterday in the sailing competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here.

Although provisional results showed the Filipino sailors have already won the gold in their respective events, sailing officials have yet to declare the winners pending the final decision of the technical jury. The ficial decision was expected to come late last night.

Lodging a protest is a common practice in sailing before the jury decides with finality.

Reneric Moreno finished second in the Formula class, while Rafael Buitre and Richly Magsanay wound up third in the 420 Open class.

In the Hobie 16 Open, Louie Perfectua and Mark Gil Francisco are also zeroing in on the bronze.

Should sailing officials rule in favor of the Filipino sailors, the country will have a total of two golds, one silver and two bronzes in the event.

The last Philippine gold in sailing came from the J24 Keel boat category during the 1993 Singapore Games.

Toni & Co. triumph in equestrian

NUMBER ONE: Leviste, Arroyo, Cojuangco-Jaworski and Laranza with POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco (center, front row). CHITO VECINA

By Jasmine W. Payo

TONI LEVISTE DIDN'T LOOK AS NERVOUS AS SHE LATER CONfessed.

With her impeccable riding form, Leviste led the Philippines to the gold medal in the showjumping team event of the equestrian competition in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Alabang Country Club polo field.

The 32-year-old Leviste, with teammates Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Joker Arroyo and Juan Ramon Laranza, claimed the top spot with a total of 13 points.

Riding chestnut mare Globe Platinum Maktub, Leviste was the only rider among 19 competitors to clear the two-round championship.

"I never feel secure in this sport," said Leviste. "Anything can happen. It's so unpredictable because you partner with another being who has his own will and mind and can do anything he wants."

Malaysia, which edged the Philippines by one point in the first round, was a distant second with 24 points. Thailand took the bronze with 44 points.

Although Arroyo claimed that the course was tough, the 17-year-old daughter of Sen. Joker Arroyo also had a clean ride in the second round.

"We had an international course designer so it was much more technical," said Arroyo, who rode 10-year-old grey gelding Without A Doubt.

The Philippines, though, had quite a scare in the first round when Cojuangco-Jaworski fell off Globe Platinum Leap of Faith after the 18-year-old grey mare stopped abruptly before reaching an obstacle.

"It's actually Toni's horse," said Cojuangco-Jaworski, who still finished the second round despite a sore back. "The horse I had in the Asian Games was injured. And I wasn't really going to join the SEA Games. I didn't train for this, I was only training Joker."

The 31-year-old equestrienne was the first Southeast Asian rider to win a gold in the Asian Games, clinching it in Busan, South Korea.

Both clearing the second round, Arroyo completed the course in 80.79 seconds, while Leviste finished in 81.11 seconds.

Lanza, riding 10-year-old gelding Don't Cry For Me, had the best overall time with 79.94 seconds but had one rail down in the second round for a four-point jump penalty.

Mighty Molina seizes 3rd gold . . .

From page A25

and Heidi Gem Ong, claimed the silver behind the Joscelyn Yeo-powered Singapore.

The RP team clocked four minutes 20.34 seconds behind Singapore's 4:14.49 which shattered the old SEAG mark of 4:19.23 set by Indonesia in 1997. Thailand was third in 4:21.39.

Fil-American rookie Totten set a new national record in the morning heats of the women's 200m freestyle and then re-wrote it again in the finals when she claimed the silver behind Thai Jirathida Phinyosophon (2:04.38) in the finals.

Erica clocked 2:04.76, bettering the 2:06.41 mark she set in the morning.

She actually held the RP record of 2:06.89 during the NCAA finals in Florida this year.

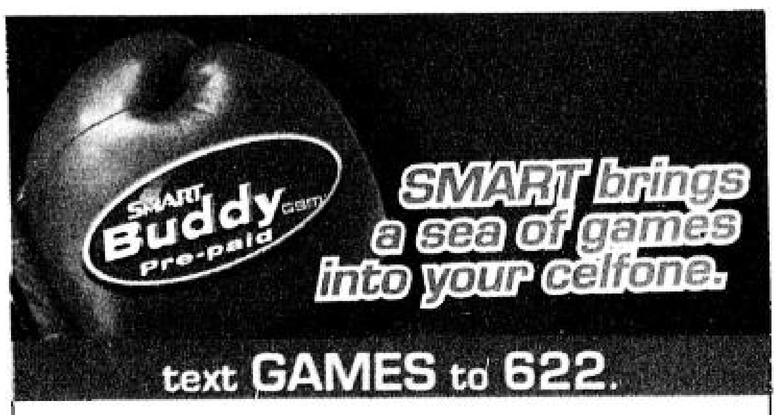
Myanmar's Aung Moe Thu, silver winner in Vietnam, was third in 2:05.43.

Pangilinan plucked her second silver when she finished second to Singapore's Nicolette Teo Wei Min in the women's 200m breast. Teo Wei Min clocked 2:34.56 in taking the gold, while Pangilinan finished in 2:35.58. Third place went to Thai Jariyawadee Narongit (2:38.31).

Eighteen-year-old Ronald Guiriba set a new RP record in the men's 50m free but could only place fourth. He clocked 23.76 seconds to improve the 23.78 mark of Ryan Papa in the 1997 SEAG in Indonesia.

However, Thai Arwut Chinnapasaen defended the title in a new SEAG record of 22.98 which erased the 23.03 seconds of Richard Sambera of Indonesia made four years ago in Malaysia.

Sambera placed second this time in 23.36, while Singapore's Leslie Kwok Ying Wah was third (23.50).With a report from Don Eric Sta. Rosa



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Golden Moments

Seven's a charm for top judoka

IT'S NOT EASY BEING JOHN Baylon. Every time the Southeast Asian Games come around, just about everybody in his weight category wants to beat him. Well, they can always go ahead and try. Baylon again frustrated his challengers in the judo competitions here, adding yet another SEA Games gold medal—his seventh-to his trophy case as he continued to prove that the -81kg division is his own personal playground.

"It was tough, but I just fought hard to make sure I would win," said the 41-year-old Baylon. "It's gotten even tougher because everybody wants to beat me."

Tough for him, but tougher for his foes. Baylon needed just 28 seconds to defeat Myanmar's Naing Soe Yan via an emphatic ippon (takedown) in the gold medal match. On the way to the finals, he toyed around with Vietnamese Hoang Hai Ho and Indonesia's Jimmy Anggoro. *Brian Ochoa, Cebu Daily News, Marc Anthony Camasura*

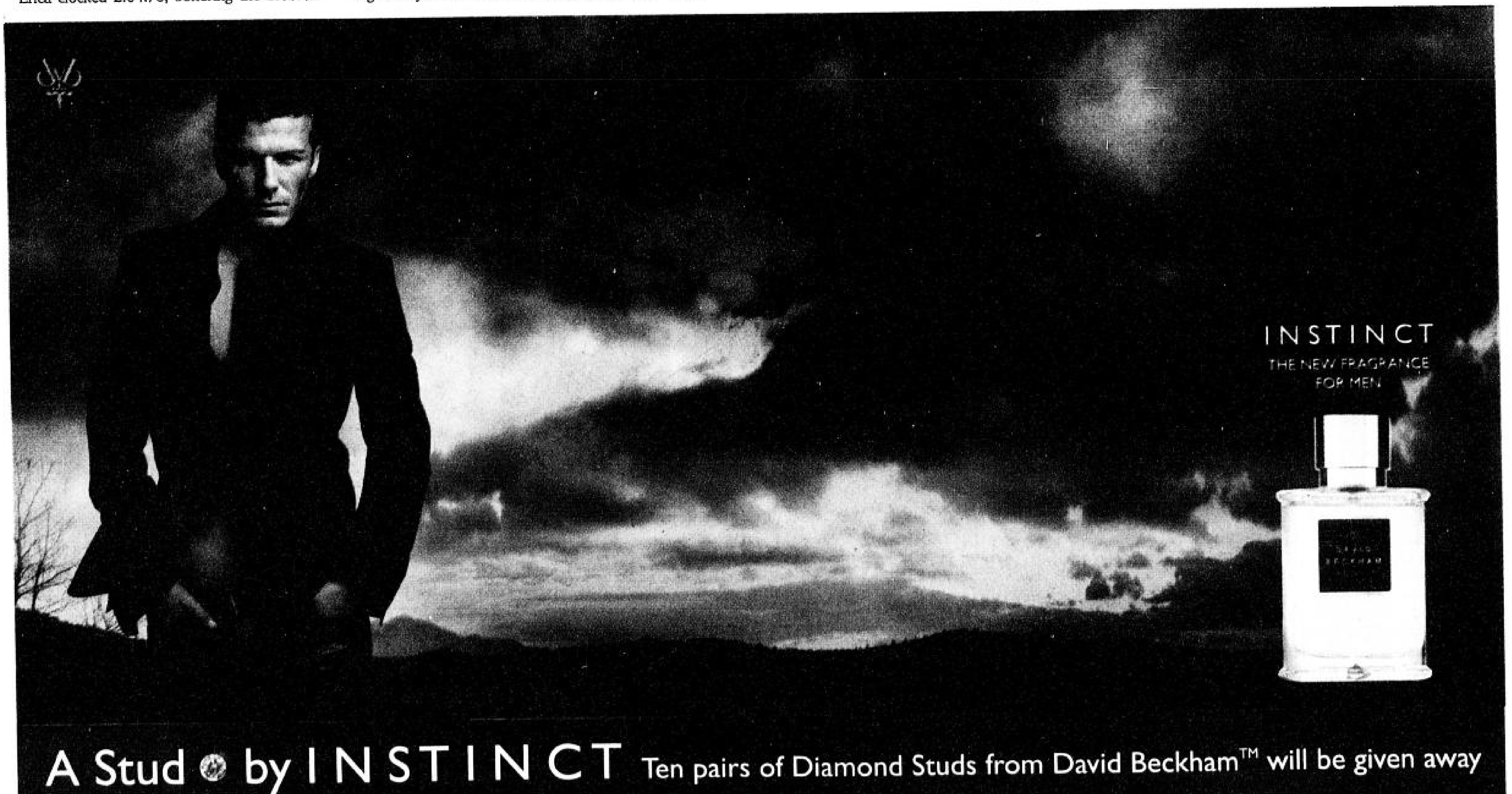
Self-support

IF YOUR GOVERNMENT CANnot give you full support, you might just as well support your self and show her why. This is what the RP lady dragonboat racers did and they proved themselves with a gold yesterday.

The RP lady rowers put up a good fight in the Women's 10 a-side finals by finishing ahead of Myanmar, Indonesia, and Singapore with a time of 4:21.72.

"Our team was on the verge of being disbanded because of economic reasons," said women's team captain Geraldine Bernardo, who cried after winning the women's event. "We sold things, beg for money, and the like just to get our own supplies."

Bernardo said that without their determination, the Philippines would not have a representative for the women's dragonboat races. *Rufino Lopez III*



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Thailand booters nail 1st final slot

BACOLOD CITY—THAILAND FINALLY PLAYED true to form yesterday, pulling off a 3-1 win over rival Indonesia to claim the first championship slot in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games men's football competition at the Panaad Stadium here.

Star striker Teerathep Winothai, who has become an instant celebrity in this football-loving city, produced his finest performance so far, knocking in two goals as the Thais remained on course for an unprecedented seventh straight SEAG crown.

Winothai opened the scoring in the 18th minute with a thunderous penalty kick after Prat Samakrat was fouled inside the box.

Defender Suree Sukha widened the gap, 2-0, with a header three minutes into injury time of the first half.

"I'm pleased with our performance, but I know there are still other areas that we can improve on," said Thai coach Chanvit Palajovin, whose squad will face the winner of the Vietnam-Malaysia match being held at presstime.

Thailand, which went through the wringer before beating the Philippines, 1-0, in the elimination phase, complemented its vaunted 4-4-2 formation with short and crisp passing, and Winothai's constant attack bore fruit with his second goal from close-range in the 55th minute.

Johan Praseetya Wibowo pulled a goal back in the 60th minute for Indonesia, which did not surrender a goal in the group stages.

Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau

PAUL Bryan Rosario takes aim during the skeet shooting team finals. EGAY MONTANA

Rosari

By JP Abcede

IT MAY BE THE NAME. OR W
intervention?

Paul Brian Rosario won the i
gold medal while powering
men's team to victory in the 2
Asian Games yesterday at the I
get Range in Muntinlupa.

Rosario, the silver medalist
vidual skeet in the 2003 Vietna
edged out Cheong Yew Kwan
the gold by breaking their dead
round with a score of 24.

The gold medalist finished w
just a point ahead of Cheong.
Chee Fei was third with 136.

Rosario's heroics sparked
with Darius Alexis Hizon and

Pinoys storm farther ahead in overall race

Thais move up to 2nd place

By Musong R. Castillo

THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD HARDLY MADE A DENT on the rampaging Philippine delegation on the fifth day of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games even as Thailand passed Vietnam for second place early last night.

Vietnam laid a big fat egg with just 15 events left to be disputed from 8 p.m. until midnight and Thailand with five victories nudged ahead to take second spot with a gold-silver-bronze output of 46-53-73.

The defending overall champion Vietnamese had a 46-46-53 tally.

But the Thais and the Vietnamese trailed by 27 golds behind the host Filipinos, who jacked up their medal haul to 73-52-55 that included 10 victories for the day so far.

Malaysia pocketed seven golds to stay in fourth at 40-30-35 with Indonesia and Singapore tied with 26 golds each.

One of Thailand's victories came in the pool over at the Trace Aquatics Center in Los Baños and in record-breaking style, too.

Arwut Chinnapasaen timed 22.98 seconds in ruling the 50-meter free over Indonesian Richard Sambera, who established the old record of 23.03 in the Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Games in 2001.

Sambera settled for second with a 23.36 clocking with Leslie Kwok of Singapore pocketing the bronze with a time of 23.56.

The day started with a 46-gold, 41-silver and 51-bronze medal count for the Viets.

Malaysia scored victories in the bowling lanes with its men's and women's teams of 5, the men's and women's massed start in the road race in Tagaytay and the women's 50-meter rifle 3 position at Fort Bonifacio.

Results coming in late last night at the RP Secretariat at the Rizal Memorial Complex have shown a trend of the Philippines running away with the overall championship and Vietnam in grave danger of losing its grip on second overall before Day 5 hostilities conclude.

"I have never been an optimist when it comes to making projections, especially if it's for the Philippines," Joseph Dumuk, the co-head of results and documentation of the Philippine Sports Commission-RP Secretariat, told the INQUIRER.

"But this time, I'm just waiting for the fat lady to sing (for the Philippines)," Dumuk added. "The foreign challenge is splitting the pie, so to speak, and that does not speak well for them. For the Philippines to lose, one nation must dominate (the last three days)."

There are only a total of a little over 180 events left to be contested, with 65 scheduled today and 100 tomorrow.

The Philippines won nine of those 26 events, roughly one-third of the total, to establish a trend and make the goal for today and tomorrow minimal.

FIL-AM Diane Pa
their beach volley

Dragonboat rowers reap 3 gold medals

HOW "SWEEP" IT IS FOR the Philippine team.

The RP dragonboat rowing squad proved too much for its international counterparts by grabbing all three golds on the first day of the traditional boat racing in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the La Mesa Dam yesterday.

Team Philippines dominated the heats and sustained its torrid show in the finals by topping the men's and women's 1000-meter 10 a-side and the men's 1000-m 20 a-side.

The Filipinos prevailed in the men's 10 a-side with a time of 3 minutes 55.47 seconds. Indonesia was second (3:57.44) and Myanmar third (4:06.22).

The nationals continued their winning ways by securing the women's 10 a-side by clocking 4:21.72, three seconds ahead of Myanmar and more than 10 seconds farther than Indonesia.

"This is vindication and validation for us," said women's team captain Geraldine Bernardino. "We dedicate this to our country. *Mahal namin ang Pilipinas.*"

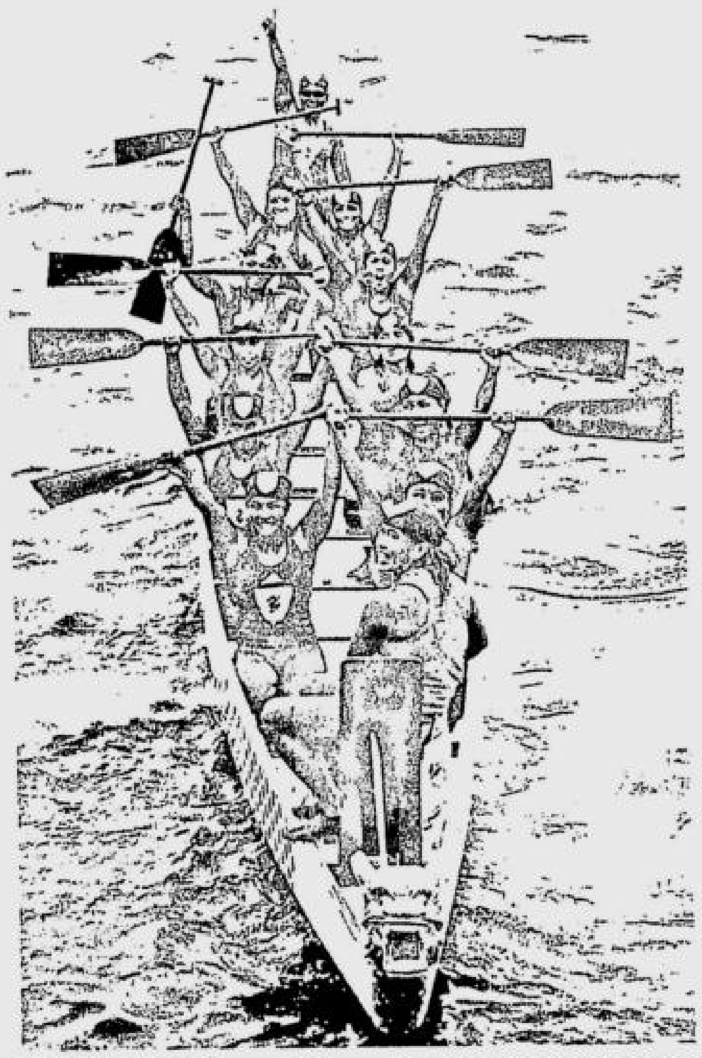
In a dramatic finish, the RP team narrowly won the men's 20 a-aide with a time of 3:37.16.

Indonesia was a very close in 3:37.47 followed by Myanmar in 3:38.62.

"We tried our best to overhaul Indonesia," men's team captain Manuel Maya said in Filipino. "We gave it all in the last 250 and then we thought we just finished second."

"You can't imagine how happy we were when we won the gold medal," added Maya.

The 500m events will take place tomorrow at the same venue but the finals will take place on Sunday. *Rufino Lopez III*



THE PHILIPPINE women's team 10 a-side raise their paddles after crossing the line ahead of the pack. JOAN BONDOC

Amposta fastest in canoe-kayak K1 qualifying

SUBIC BAY, OLONGAPO CITY—MARVIN AMposta raised Philippine hopes for a gold in the Southeast Asian Games' canoe and kayak competition yesterday with a solid performance in the eliminations at the Malawaan Fishing Area here.

Amposta, paddling from the fourth lane in the first heat, posted the best time of the preliminary stages of the men's K1 class, completing the 500-meter course in 1 minute 45.90 seconds that installed him as the top seed in the finals.

Indonesia's Sayadin joined him in the finals by topping the second heat in 1:46.10.

The men's K1 final will be held tomorrow.

The second and third placers of the two heats went at it again during the semifinals with Myanmar's Phone Myint Tayzar and Vietnam's Nguyen Dinh Hai prevailing with times of 1:47.27 and 1:48.20, respectively.

Booted out were Thailand's Piyaphan Phaophat and Brunei's Ariffin Haji Zainal.

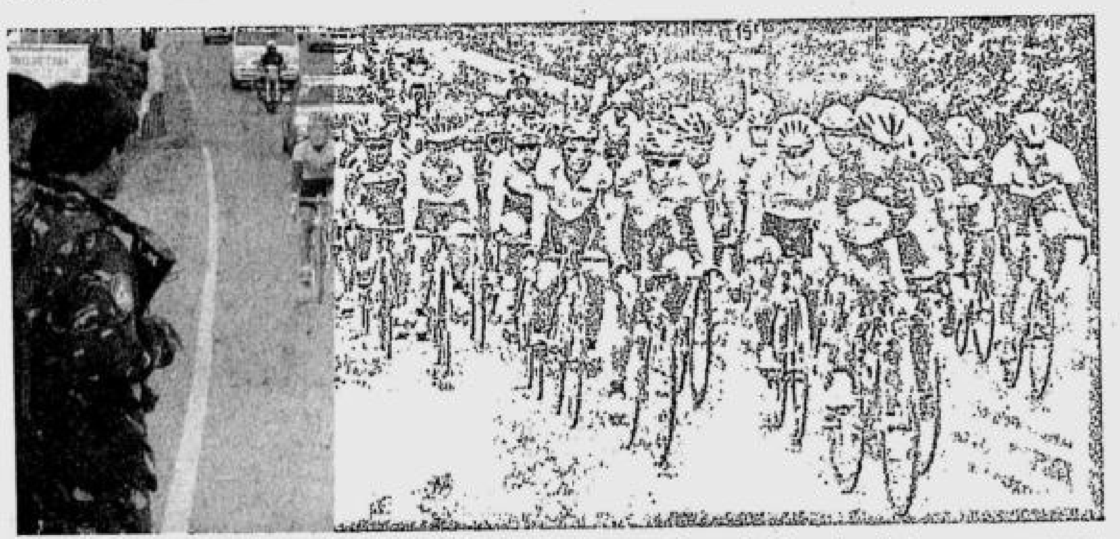
The Philippines, which hopes to improve on its single bronze medal performance during the 2003 Vietnam SEA Games, is seeking at least two of the seven gold medals at stake.

"We could not maximize our advantage in familiarity with the venue," said RP coach Len Escalante.

April Mae Peñalosa and Jenalyn Betacura were ousted in the semifinal of the women's K2, losing the fight for the last finals slot to Myanmar's Khin Mar Oo and Aye Mi Khaing.

Peñalosa and Betacura earlier lost to Singapore's Yong Shiyun and Chen Jiewen Andrea in the heats.

A seeming lack of chemistry did the partners in, according to Escalante, noting Peñalosa only trained with Betacura for five months after her original partner quit when she got pregnant. *Jose Paolo Lacdao*



RP rider Warren Davadilla leads the 177-km massed start peloton in Nasugbu, Batangas. JESS YUSON

Filipino riders shu

TAGAYTAY CITY—LUCK WAS NOT ON THE SIDE of the Philippine cyclists as mechanical failures and blowouts ended their hopes for a medal finish in the cycling road races of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday.

Tour veterans Arnel Quirimit and Warren Davadilla, who were part of a 15-man lead group, both suffered mechanical malfunctions in the last kilometer that blew their chances in the men's 160-km massed start race.

Quirimit, a former Tour champion, fell back when his rear derailleur malfunctioned while Vietnam SEA Games silver medalist Davadilla suffered a blowout and finished ninth alongside six riders.

"I should have pla
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Malaysia's Hassan
medal in 5 hours, 2
lowed by Saurai of Inc
Vietnam with identic
ver and bronze, respec

"We did our best,"
Mendoza. "We had a b
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In the women's ro
cialist Marites Bitbit s
malfunction in her as

Velasco joins 2 RP bets in muay finals

REIGNING MUAY THAI WORLD champion Brent Velasco subdued Xanxai Boonthavy of Laos in the men's bantamweight eliminations to reach the gold-medal round of the Southeast Asian Games Muay competitions yesterday at the GSIS Gym in Pasay City.

The well-built 5-foot-8 fighter from Baguio banked on his agility to conquer the much taller Boonthavy in the four-round bout.

"It was difficult because my opponent was taller," the 25-year-old Velasco said in Filipino. "But I kept on pressing him."

Earlier, another Filipino, Reynold Trasmonte, settled for the bronze medal after bowing to Burmese Lansanh Mashopha in the men's featherweight division.

Velasco joined teammates Zaidi Laruan and Roland Claro in the Muay finals slated tomorrow, when women fighters and Waikru artists will also see action.

Velasco will clash with Thailand's Mongkhom Punpiboon, a veteran of the World Muay Championships who conquered the stylish Saw Kyaw Aye of Myanmar in the eliminations.

"I saw the Thai play and he's good," Velasco said. "But I think I can handle him in the finals."

Laruan and Claro will also take on Thai opponents in the finals of the men's lightweight and featherweight divisions, respectively. Laruan will be up against Virapong Nonting, while Claro will face Uchaim Yingram.

Karla Tricia V. Magno

Bowlers clinch 2 more silver

THE PHILIPPINE MEN'S AND women's bowling teams claimed two more silvers medals in the team of five event yesterday at the Pearl Bowling Center as arch rival Malaysia swept the two gold medals on offer.

With the two runner-up finishes, the Philippines brought its total output to two golds and six silvers after four days of competition to place third in the race for the overall plum behind pace-setting Malaysia's tally of three golds, three silvers, and three bronzes, and Indonesia's three golds and two bronzes.

The team of Chester King, CJ Suarez, Markwin Tee, Ernesto Gatchalian, and Tyrone Ongpauco, who replaced Engelberto Rivera at the start of the fourth game, was unable to overhaul an 80-pinfall deficit and yielded to the Malaysian quintet of Daniel Lim, Aaron Kong, Zulmazran Zulkifli, Ben Heng, and Alex Liew, 6781-6667.

Suarez led an early charge in the fourth game when he submitted a perfect score to help the Philippines come to within 27 pinfalls.

It was the eighth perfect game of Suarez and fifth at the Pearl Bowling Center. Remy Ong of Singapore also had a perfect game in the sixth game.

In the women's event, Josephine Canare, Liza Clutario, Elaine Florencio, Liza del Rosario, and Cecile Yap rallied from 182 pinfalls down but fell sh
Malaysia's Wendy Chai, Esther C
Crystal Choi, Lai Kin Ngoh, and Z
Aziela, 6445-6325.

Irene Garcia, who played in the
structive group composed of p
from different countries, will r
the silver medal as well. *Eric Aben*

RP WOMEN'S bowling team point to the flag painted on their cheeks.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

o leads skeet shooters to 2 golds

AS IT DIVINE

ndividual skeet the Philippine 3rd Southeast NSA Clay Tar-

in men's indi- n SEA Games, f Malaysia for lock in the fifth

ith 138 points, Malaysian The

is partnership atricio Bernar-

SO NEAR: "Tac" Padilla. ROGER MARGALLO

do to victory in team action with 337 points.

Malaysia, getting only 105 points from Amran Risman, accumulated 333 for the silver, and Thailand was good for third with 329.

Meanwhile, Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla faltered in the final round and missed by 2.2 points the gold medal in his favorite event, the men's 25-meter rapid fire pistol.

Hasli Izwan Amir Hasan of Malaysia won the gold with 756.7 points with Panchitpatikum Jakkrit of Thailand rallying to take the bronze with 748.9 points after placing fifth going into the finals.

Hizon emerged fifth in the individual skeet after figuring in a shootoff against Varadharmapinich Krisada of Thailand. Both finished with 112 points.

Bernardo ranked eighth with 109 points to round out RP's winning team total.

Padilla overtook the Malaysian in the second set of the finals with a score of 49.4 points as Hasan just managed a 45.0.

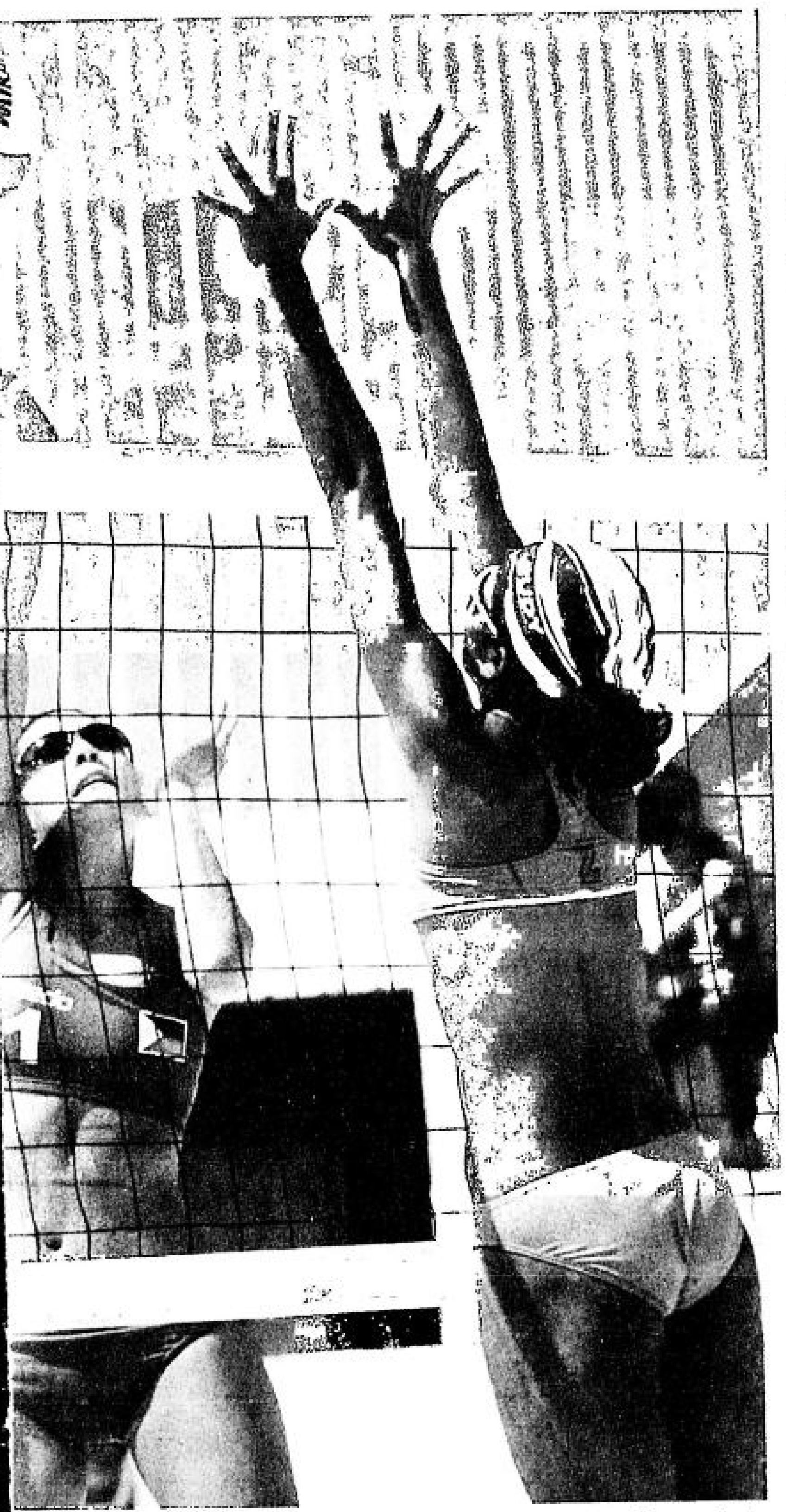
But the Filipino veteran faltered in the next frame with a 46.6 while Hasan had a 50.2 lifted by scores of 10.7 and 10.3 in two targets.

Padilla had another chance to snag the gold in the final round, but he only had a line of nine to show. He accepted the outcome by approaching the victor and congratulating him even before the final score was being tallied.

"*Wala, hanggang doon lang*. But we did our best," Padilla said.

Frances Nicolle Medina fell a point shy of a podium position, ending up fourth in the women's 50-m rifle prone with 583 points.

Nur Suryani Mohamed Taibi of Malaysia took the gold with 587 points, while Ponglaokham Paramaporn of Thailand was second. Another Thai, Wankaew Supamas, grabbed third. Josie Estadilla tied for eighth with Lim Chea Kong of Singapore and Win Cho San of Malaysia.



scua deftly steers the volleyball away from Malaysia's Iswari Manokharan during ball match at the University of St. La Salle court in Bacolod City. REM ZAMORA

Pascua-Ilustre stay in hunt for b'volley gold

By Cedelf P. Tupas
PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

BACOLOD CITY—HOPES OF A 1-2 Philippine finish in women's beach volleyball ended yesterday in the Southeast Asian Games beach volleyball competition here.

The Filipino pair of Michele Laborte and Cecile Tabuena took their loss, which set them up for a quarterfinal tiff against Fil-Ams Diane Pascua and Heidi Ilustre.

Making heads turn not only with their looks but their skills, Pascua and Ilustre frolicked under the midday heat, coming away with a 21-13, 21-15 triumph over Malaysia 2's Lim Po Hong and Iswari Manokharan to complete a sweep of its Pool B assignments.

But the Philippines' Team 1 of Tabuena and Laborte was relegated to the bottom of Pool A, following another lackluster performance against Indonesia's Devota Saveriana and Timy Rahayu, who handily won, 21-11, 21-16.

Things are looking good for the Philippines in the men's division despite setbacks by both Teams 1 and 2.

Representing RP Team 2, the pair of Chad Mowrey and Justin Schnor groped for form in a 21-17, 21-11 loss at the hands of Vietnam. The Fil-Am pair, however, won't be meeting the team of Parley Tupaz and Rhovyl Verayo until the finals.

The Tupaz-Verayo duo remained winless yesterday, getting a neat lesson from Thailand's top team of Kamoltip Kulna and Jarunee Sannok, who scored an easy 21-13, 21-16 victory over the homegrown bets.

But both Philippine teams are expected to encounter rough sailing as they bid for a 1-2 finish.

Mowrey and Schnor hope to gain a measure of revenge when they take on Kulna and Jarunee for a place in the semifinals, while Tupaz and Verayo battle the powerhouse Thai pair of Thawip Thongkamnerd and Apichart Baluang.

RP lifter Jomar Napoloreyes competes in the 69kg class at the Bacolod Convention Center. He failed to land in the Top 3. REM ZAMORA

First medal for lifters

By Christian Irl Tan
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—CECILIA ATILANO won a bronze medal that shone like gold for the host team in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games weightlifting competition yesterday at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel here.

It was the first medal for local weighlifters.

The 29-year-old Atilano, a Pampanga native and PE teacher at the University of Zamboanga, grabbed the bronze in the women's 63 kg with a 187 kg total in the snatch and clean-and-jerk.

Erstwhile third-running Khin Moe New of Burma (Myanmar) suffered a cramp in her left thigh and fouled her three 117-kg attempts in the clean-and-jerk.

"It's just a blessing in disguise, an early birthday gift," said Atilano, who turns 30 on Dec. 6.

"It was sheer luck, but it was also a favor from God because Cecilia (Atilano) really trained hard," said Atilano's husband and personal coach, Elbert Sr.

Olympic bronze medalist Wandee Kameaim of Thailand took the gold with 230 kg, spiked by a new SEAG best 130 kg in the clean-and-jerk.

Vietnam's Nguyen Yen posted a new SEAG mark of 102 kg in the snatch en route to the silver medal-winning 222 kg total.

2 softball squads still unchallenged

THE PHILIPPINES CONTINUED ITS overpowering march to a softball gold double in the Southeast Asian Games with lopsided wins at the Rosario Sports Arena in Pasig City.

The Blu Boys, looking forward to a title meeting with defending champion Indonesia, blasted Malaysia, 15-0, in five innings for their second win.

Just as impressive were the Blu Girls, who whitewashed their two rivals for the day, crushing Indonesia, 7-0, and Singapore, 3-0.

The Blu Boys bombarded Malaysian pitchers Gijen Groi and Chan Yig with 12 hits to open up a 9-0 lead after two innings and capped their assault with a home run by Jasper Cabrera in the final frame.

"I am 99 percent sure we can win the gold," said RP coach Gregorio dela Cerna, referring to the RP-Indonesia title game on Sunday.

The Blu Girls greeted the Indons with a home run by Nelia Lara and toyed with their rivals from there, but they struggled somewhat against Singapore.

Amateur softball association president Harry Angping said the two teams hope to maintain RP's long record of supremacy in the event. *Llanesca T. Panti*

ıt out in road races

ced at least third," said an Filipino as Philcycling presioled him.

Suhardi captured the gold minutes, 45.600 seconds folonesia and Phat Dat Trinh of clockings, who won the siltively.

id Philcycling secretary Mar g chance to win the gold une) happened.

d race, mountain bike speffered a flat tire and a chain nt to Tagaytay but managed to finish fifth with a time of 2:52:01.21 seconds.

"I'm happy with the performance. We surprised a lot of teams," noted Mendoza.

Bitbit had already won a gold in the women's cross country in Cebu before bagging a silver in the women's individual time trial Thursday.

Alias Noor Azian clocked 2:47:49.26 seconds for the women's gold to complete a sweep by Malaysia of the massed start races. Thailand's Ontasin Chanpeng took the silver and Vietnam SEAG bronze medalist Chapookam Monrudee was third again.

The trio broke away in the flat roads of Batangas and managed to maintain their position in the climb to Tagaytay. *Reuben Terrado*

Singaporean rules; Macasieb 3rd

By June Navarro

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—CHENG JING HEAN of Singapore found a perfect birthday present for his father when he captured the gold in men's triathlon yesterday in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here.

Cheng dominated the 1.5-kilometer swim and 40-km bike courses to build a lead he sustained to prevail in 1 hour, 58 minutes and 41 seconds.

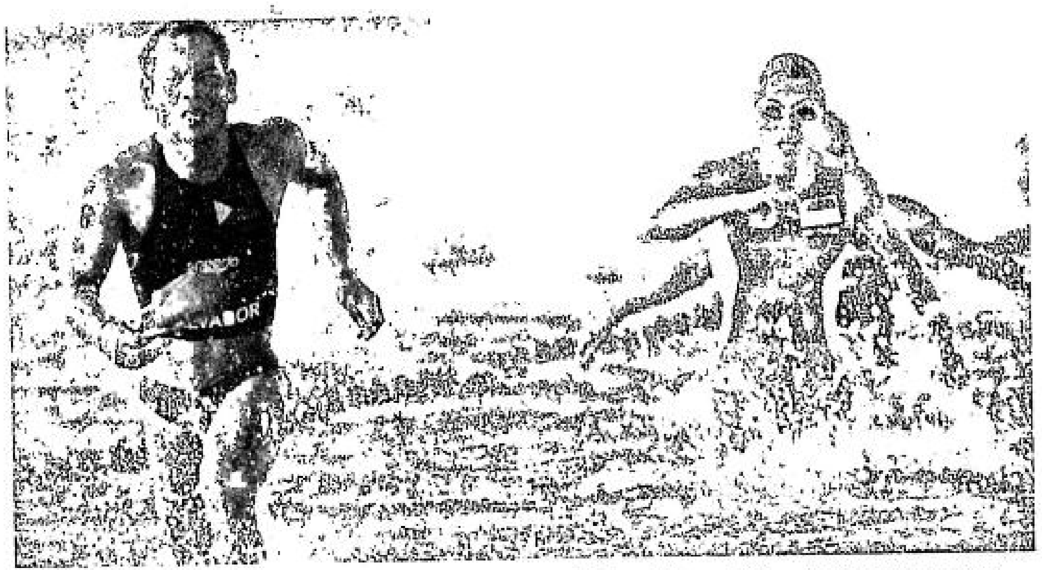
Malaysia's Loh Yeong Shang checked in almost four minutes later with his 2:02:12.63 clocking to snare the silver, while Arland Macasieb of the Philippines copped the bronze in 2:04:30.

"I feel fantastic," said the 18-year-old Cheng, who set out for the race with at least 20 international triathlon stints under his belt. "This is the first time I've won in my entire career.

"This gold is extra special because of my father's birthday. This is my gift for him."

His father, Cheng Chang Fong, was a national cyclist for Singapore in the 1960s. The older Cheng, who turned 58 yesterday, competed both in the SEA Games and Asian Games during his prime but never won a gold.

Cheng swam two minutes faster than his closest pursuers and jacked up his time advantage to four minutes in the bike. The stocky, 5-foot-10 Singaporean slowed down in the 10-km run when the gold was already in the bag.



NOEL Salvador (left), Gino Ernest Ng of Singapore and Arland Macasieb (partly hidden) emerge from the swim leg already more than 2 minutes behind Cheng Jing Hean. ROMY HOMILLADA

"He's big and we knew he was going to be strong," said the New Jersey-based Macasieb, who trained for two months in Newcastle, Australia, together with Noel Salvador.

"We trained with him (Cheng) in Australia. With his strength, he really deserved to win."

Salvador landed fifth in 2:06:12.

"I gave all that I had in the final lap but I already lost too much time in the bike," said the 30-year-old Macasieb. "There was nothing we could do."

Alessandra Araullo salvaged a silver medal in women's action Thursday. *With a report from Paolo Lacdao*

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ROGER MARGALLO

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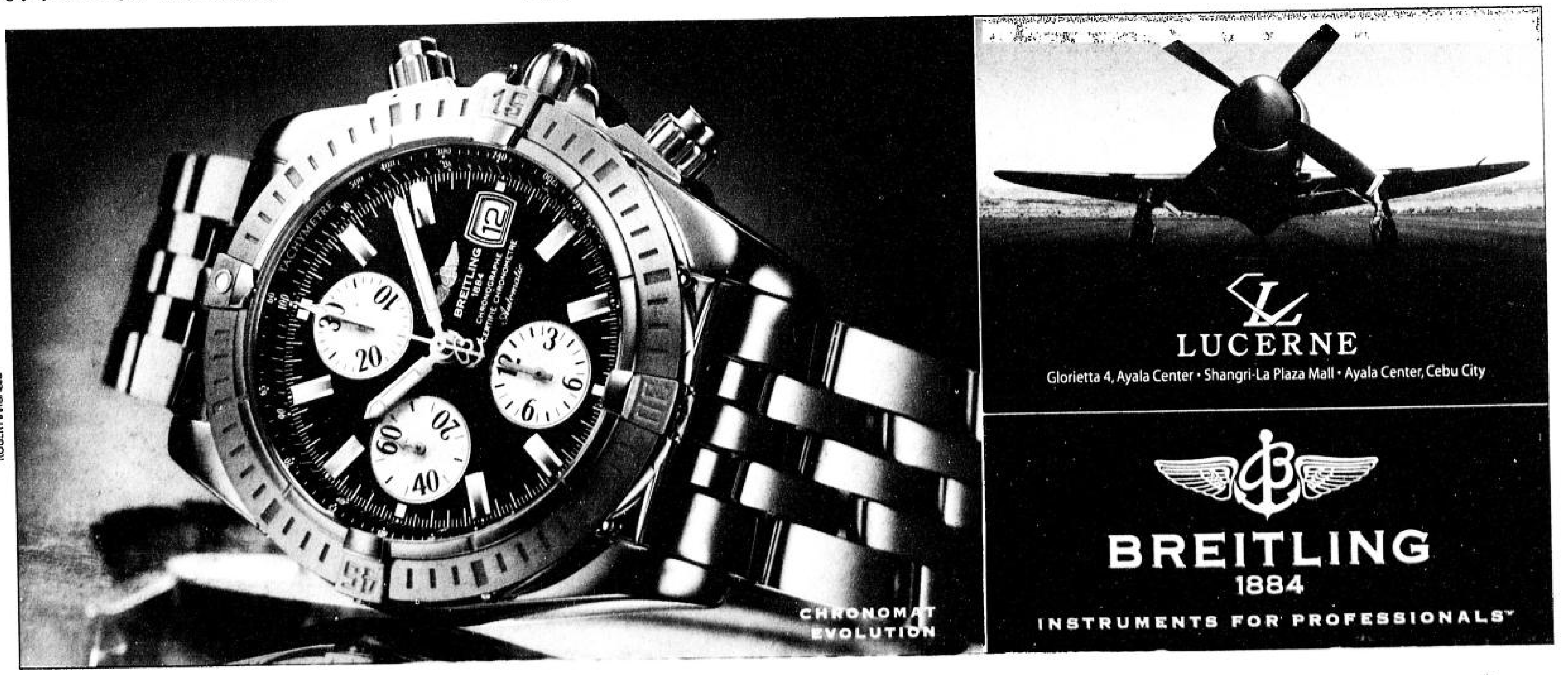

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Ageless Baylon bags 7th SEAG judo gold

CEBU CITY—IT'S NOT EASY BEING JOHN Baylon. Every time the Southeast Asian Games come around, just about everybody in his weight category wants to beat him.

Well, they can always go ahead and try.

Baylon again frustrated his challengers in the judo competitions here, adding yet another SEA Games gold medal—his seventh—to his trophy case as he continued to prove that the -81kg division is his own personal playground.

"It was tough, but I just fought hard to make sure I would win," said the 41-year-old Baylon. "It's gotten even tougher because everybody wants to beat me."

Tough for him, tougher for his foes.

Baylon needed just 28 seconds to defeat Myanmar's Naing Soe Yan at the Mandaue City sports complex via an emphatic ippon (takedown) in the gold medal match. On the way to the finals, he toyed around with Vietnamese Hoang Hai Ho and Indonesia's Jimmy Anggoro.

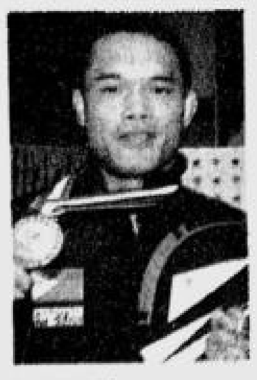
By the time the gold medal was wrapped around his neck, his opponents were resigned to the fact that there was only one way that they could ever taste victory in the -81kg class of the biennial meet.

"I hope he retires the next SEA Games so he could give young people like me the chance to taste gold," said Anggoro.

Tough luck.

"Like I said, as long as I am fit enough to represent the country, I will continue to do so," Baylon said. "I still have no plans of retiring."

"He's an icon that all judokas should look up to," said Sadik, the Indonesian director for judo.



BAYLON TONEE DESPOJO

As scintillating as the victory of the Airman 2nd class was, it was just the second gold still for a delegation that is eyeing between seven to 10.

Helen Dawa won the first gold Thursday.

In the -90kg category, the Philippines' Sidney Schwarzkopf failed to pull out a single win in two attempts, denying him a chance of even a bronze medal match.

Same happened with Mandaue native Rezil Rosalejos in the -57kg division as she was literally beaten in her first match against Thailand's Kanda Jindasawat.

Rosalejos failed to appear in her second match after suffering from a serious elbow injury she suffered against her Thailand foe.

Elmarie Malasan, however, wound up with a decent finish in the -52 kg. category, beating Myanmar's Aung Min Thiri in the bronze medal match.

Still, the trickle of gold medals did not dampen the morale of the entire squad.

"Win or lose, I'll stand by my athletes," said Melvin Magat, one of the team's head coaches. "That's just the way it is in sports, sometimes you win, sometimes you lose."

Magata said that the Philippines can still hit the target of 7 to 10 golds since there are still eight weight divisions to be battled in the next two days starting today.

"We will grab any chance of making it seven or 10," added Magata.

Four more judokas try to redeem the country's so-so performance so far when they see action today at the Mandaue Sports Complex.

Aristotle Lucero (-66kg), Gilbert Ramirez (-73kg), Espegay Liwanan (-63kg) and Ruth Duga-Duga (-78kg) will compete against the best of Southeast Asia starting 1 p.m. today.

Head coach Anecia Pedroso said that today's set of athletes will be the strongest among the four batches of judokas. *Brian Ochoa, Cebu Daily News, Marc Anthony Camasura*

RUBILEN Amit lines up her shot. RUDY ESPERAS

RP rules 8-ball singles, clinches overall crown

UNDERSCORING ITS WORLD STATUS IN BILliards, the Philippines clinched the overall championship in the sport by securing a 1-2 finish in the men's 8-ball singles of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

Former world pool champion Alex Pagulayan and Lee Van Corteza eliminated their semifinal rivals by identical 9-6 scores in the morning to forge an all-Filipino duel for the 8-ball gold late yesterday.

Pagulayan, who is eyeing his third gold, and Corteza, a perennial gold medal winner in the biennial meet, downed Yudaman K of Indonesia and Tey Choon Kiat of Singapore, respectively.

Rubilen Amit paved the way for an RP sweep of the 8-ball singles by winning the women's title with a 9-5 victory over Singapore's Hoe Shu Wah in the finals late Thursday.

With seven gold medals in the bag, the Filipinos have more than tripled the anemic two-gold haul in Vietnam two years ago with still two playing days left in the schedule.

The country is also expected to dominate the 9-ball singles in both the men's and women's divisions.

Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar have a gold medal each so far.

Amit earlier won over Thai Vuthidhan Kong Kaket, 9-3, in the quarterfinals and 9-7 over Singapore's Chai Zeet Huey in the semifinals.

Women's coach Edgar Asonto, the coach of the women's team, said he was not surprised by Amit's win in the finals because the Filipino had early beaten the Singaporean in the Asian championship in 2002.

The men's English billiards doubles gold went to Myanmar after a 3-0 win over Thailand, 3-0. Malaysia beat Vietnam, 3-0, for the the bronze match.

The Filipinos also dominated the sport in the 1991 Manila SEA Games with six golds, four of them courtesy of Leonardo Andam. Marlon Bernardino, contributor; and Martha Rose Cabrera

COUNTRIES	G	S	B
Philippines	6	1	0
Thailand	1	3	0
Vietnam	1	2	0
Myanmar	1	1	0
Singapore	0	2	3
Indonesia	0	0	3
Malaysia	0	0	3
Brunei	0	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0

Yabut keeps pencak silat hopes alive

CEBU CITY—THE NATIONAL PENCAK SILAT squad found a third hope in its quest for a first-ever gold medal in the sport in the Southeast Asian Games when skipper Christopher Yabut pummeled Thai Yuhuna Bairaman in the semifinals yesterday at the Cebu Coliseum.

The squad's head coach, however, sacrificed a fourth chance when he put the welfare of his ward above the quest for victory.

Yabut, the unshakeable anchor of a team hoping to give a supportive Cebuano crowd something to rock the house with, never gave Bairaman a chance, hammering out a 5-0 victory built around cat-quick kicks and furious punches in their 50-55kg encounter.

"I've been in this position before and I've always come up short," said Yabut, ranked No. 1 in the world in his category. "The mistakes I made in the past would do well to help me get the gold."

The 29-year-old Yabut iced the match with several throwdowns that underscored his determination to claim the gold in tomorrow's finals.

In the 55-60kg class, the Philippines lost out on a gold medal shot and settled for the bronze when foreign head coach Suhartono refused to risk Abzhar Abdurasad's health just to improve on the country's championship bid.

Abdurasad was knocked out cold by an illegal kick to the head by Singapore's Mohamed Ramli in Thursday's quarterfinal round. He is, however, already assured of the bronze medal.

"I'd rather sacrifice the gold than put any of my players in any more danger, considering the injury Adzhar incurred [Thursday]," said Suhartono. *Jonas Rey N. Panerio, Cebu Daily News*

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SEA GAMES SCHEDULES

AQUATICS-SWIMMING (*Trace College Aquatics Center, Los Baños, Laguna*)
8 a.m.—50M Freestyle (women's heats); 200M Butterfly (men's and women's heats); 200M Freestyle (men's heats); 400M Individual Medley (women's heats); 4x100M Medley Relay (men's heats)
6 p.m.—50M Freestyle (women's finals); 200M Butterfly (men's and women's finals); 200M Freestyle (men's finals); 400M Individual Medley (women's finals), 4x100M Medley Relay (men's finals)
ARCHERY (*Remy Baseball Field, Subic Bay Freeport*)
9 a.m.—Compound (women's individual finals)
10:40 a.m.—Compound (men's individual finals)
1:30 p.m.—Recurve (women's individual finals)
3:10 p.m.—Recurve (men's individual finals)
ARNIS (*Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports and Cultural Center, Manila*)
9 a.m.—Anyo One Stick Individual (men's and women's finals); Anyo Two Sticks Team (men's and women's finals)
BADMINTON (*PhilSports Arena, Pasig City*)
TBA
BASEBALL (*Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium, Manila*)
10 a.m.—Philippines vs. Myanmar (semis)
BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER (*Makati Coliseum, Makati City*)
10 a.m.—English Billiards Singles (men's semis); One Cushion Carom (men's semis); Snooker Singles (men's q'finals)
1 p.m.—English Billiards Singles (bronze match); Snooker Singles (men's q'finals)
4 p.m.—8-Ball Singles (men's semis); English Billiards Singles (men's finals); Snooker Singles (men's pre-q'finals)
7 p.m.—8-Ball Singles (men's finals and bronze match); Snooker Singles (men's pre-q'finals)
BODYBUILDING (*GSIS Theater, Pasay City*)
1 p.m.—55Kg Light Flyweight (men's pre-judging)
2 p.m.—60Kg Flyweight (men's pre-judging)
3 p.m.—65Kg Bantamweight (men's pre-judging)
4 p.m.—70Kg Lightweight (men's pre-judging)
5 p.m.—75Kg Welterweight (men's pre-judging)
6 p.m.—80Kg Light Middleweight (men's pre-judging)
BOWLING-TENPIN (*Pearl Bowling Center, Parañaque City*)
10 a.m.—Masters (men's 8 games 1st block)
2 p.m.—Masters (women's 8 games 1st block)
CANOEING AND KAYAKING (*Malawaan Fishing Area, Subic Bay Freeport*)
9 a.m.—Women's K1 heats
9:20 a.m.—Men's K2 heats
10 a.m.—Women's K1 semis
10:10 a.m.—Men's K2 semis
CHESS (*Tagaytay International Convention Center, Tagaytay City*)
9 a.m.—Blitz Individual (men's and women's semis)
10:30 a.m.—Blitz Individual (men's and women's finals)
4:30 p.m.—Standard (men's and women's round 6)
CYCLING-TRACK (*Amoranto Velodrome, Quezon City*)
9 a.m.—Team Sprint (men's qualifying)
9:30 a.m.—4Km Individual Pursuit (men's qualifying)
10:15 a.m.—4Km Team Pursuit (men's qualifying)
1:30 p.m.—Team Sprint (men's finals)
1:40 p.m.—4Km Individual Pursuit (men's finals)
2 p.m.—4Km Team Pursuit (men's finals)
GOLF (*The Country Club, Canlubang, Laguna*)
7:30 a.m.—Men's Individual (2nd round)
GYMNASTICS (*Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Manila*)
1 p.m.—Rhythmic Gymnastics (women's individual all-around finals)
JUDO (*Mandaue Coliseum, Mandaue City*)
1 p.m.—63, -66, -70, -73Kg (elims)
5 p.m.—63, -66, -70, -73Kg (bronze matches)
6 p.m.—63, -66, -70, -73Kg (finals)
LAWN BOWLS (*Hidden Vale Sports Club, Angeles City, Pampanga*)
8:30 a.m.—Men's and women's singles, pairs and triples (round 5)
SEPAK TAKRAW (*University of San Carlos Gym, Cebu City*)
8 a.m.—Philippines vs. Singapore (men's double regu elims)
10 a.m.—Myanmar vs. Philippines (men's double regu elims)
SHOOTING-PISTOL AND RIFLE/PRACTICAL (*PSC-PNSA Shooting Range, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig*)
9 a.m.—25M Center Fire Pistol 30+30 (men's finals); 50M FR 3-Position 3x20 (men's finals)
SOFTBALL (*Rosario Sports Arena, Pasig City*)
8 a.m. Thailand vs. Philippines (women's)
2 p.m. Philippines vs. Singapore (women's)
TABLE TENNIS (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Manila*)
9 a.m.—Men's and women's singles (stage 1)
2 p.m.—Men's and women's singles (stage 1)
7 p.m.—Men's and women's doubles (finals); mixed doubles (finals)
TENNIS (*Rizal Memorial Tennis Center, Manila*)
TENNIS (Rizal Memorial Tennis Center, Manila)
10:30 a.m.—Wynne Prakusya/Romana Tedjakusuma (INA) vs. Denise Dy/Riza Zalameda (PHI) (women's doubles semis)
12 p.m.—Eric Taino/Riza Zalameda (PHI) vs. Sanchai Ratiwatana/Montinee Thangphong (THA) (mixed doubles semis)
3 p.m.—Danai Udomchoke (THA) vs. Cecil Mamiit (PHI) (men's singles finals)
4:30 p.m.—Prima Simpatiaji/Suhu Wahyu Trijati (INA) vs. Cecil Mamiit/Eric Taino (men's doubles semis)
TRADITIONAL BOAT RACE (*La Mesa Dam Reservoir, Novaliches*)
9:30 a.m.—500M 10A-Side (men's and women's heats/repechages)
VOLLEYBALL (*West Negros College Gym, Bacolod City*)
3:30 p.m.—Philippines vs. Indonesia (men's)
VOLLEYBALL-BEACH (*University of St. La Salle Grounds, Bacolod City*)
8 a.m.—Philippines-1 vs. Philippines-2 (women's); Thailand-1 vs. Philippines-2 (men's); Philippines-1 vs. Thailand-2 (men's)
WEIGHTLIFTING (*Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel, Bacolod City*)
9 a.m.—94Kg (men's finals)
1 p.m.—69Kg (women's finals)
4 p.m.—105Kg (men's finals)
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL (*Marikina Sports Center, Marikina City*)
7 p.m.—Myanmar vs. Thailand (finals)

Basta Pinoy. Posible!

ABZHAR Abdurasad (left) of the Philippines won't be able to shoot for the gold after getting pulled off the competition by his coach, who did not want to risk further injuring his ward. Abdurasad suffered a head injury in his match Thursday at the Cebu Coliseum. CDN PHOTO/LITO TECSON)

Sepak takraw team foiled anew

CEBU CITY—THE RP SEPAK SAKRAW women's team succumbed to another heart-breaking defeat, dashing any hopes of clinching a medal in the regu event of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the University of San Carlos gym.

The women's team lost to Indonesia, 21-17, 16-21, 15-9, and, like the men's squad, failed to snatch any medal in the said event.

Unlike in the men's division where teams need to go through the playoff round to determine the winners, Thailand was automatically named the gold winner after topping the elimination round with a 3-0 (win-loss) card.

Vietnam bagged silver while Myanmar and Indonesia settled for bronze.

In the men's group, Malaysia hacked out an easy, 21-11, 21-13, win over Thailand to cop the gold.

Thailand took silver while Myanmar and Indonesia got bronze medals.

The RP sepak sakraw squad, however, gave the throng of supporters something to cheer about when its men's team jumped off to rousing start in the double regu event by beating Singapore, 19-21, 21-13, 15-13.

The Pinoys, manned by Jolly Aglobo, Charlie Magtangob and Marbie Quirante, won despite losing a sloppy first set. *Calvin Cordova, Cebu Daily News*

GTK: 'I will hang myself if we don't get 10 golds!'

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

WAS IT A THREAT, A PROMISE, OR AN expression of supreme confidence when Patafa president Go Teng Kok announced over national television that he would hang himself if his medal haul prediction of at least 10 golds for athletics is not achieved?

I witnessed this firsthand over NBN-4's news program 'Teledyaryo' at noon the other day.

"I will hang myself if we don't get 10 golds," GTK told reporter Noel Perfecto during the interview which was within earshot of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and national training director Mike Keon.

The statement drew guffaws from Noel.

* * *

Long before the opening of the Manila Southeast Asian Games, GTK had been telling the press that he already had 10 golds in his pocket and could probably put in 2 more for a total of 12.

Actually, the very first time he made a forecast, GTK went out on a limb as he predicted that athletics was good for as many as 15 golds.

Later, however, probably after consultation with his coaches, and realizing that this was a bit too ambitious, he scaled down his forecast.

Meanwhile, former Gintong Alay project director Keon, under whose reign the country enjoyed its golden years in athletics, also issued his own forecast.

It was more conservative.

"Eight to 10 golds," Mike said, explaining that his prediction was more realistic.

* * *

GTK must have taken Keon's modest forecast as a challenge, if not an insult, because every time they meet, he would tell Keon that he would make him crawl under his legs when the SEAG ends.

I think this exercise is called "*suot sa lungga*," where the loser of a competition crouches on all fours and crawls under the spread-out legs of the winner.

Obviously, GTK hopes to make Keon go through this exercise if athletics wins more than 10 golds as he predicted.

As of this writing, the Filipinos have collected 8, and are ranked next to topnotcher Thailand which has 11. Only two more golds are at stake in the men and women's marathon. While oddsmakers agree that the gold in the men's division is almost a cinch, in the ladies, it is a question mark.

Of course both GTK and Keon are hoping we win both.

But in the event we don't, I wonder if Mike will order GTK to crawl inside the cave?

* * *

Basketball comes alive again when the PBA resumes tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum, followed by the much-awaited Ateneo-La Salle Dream Games which reel off in the same venue on Dec. 8.

Vintage chairman Bobong Velez, who promoted the first such event 30 years ago, is looking forward to another classic encounter and a fullhouse attendance.

Tickets are selling like hotcakes, he said with only limited upper box seats (numbered, he stressed) available. Patron and lower box seats are practically sold out.

"Although the two schools are the fiercest of rivals inside the hardcourt, they're the best of friends outside, and this project, which is co-sponsored by San Miguel Corp. and Hapee Toothpaste, should be a good proof," said Bobong.

Incidentally, the UAAP board's verdict on the long-drawn eligibility issue is scheduled to come out on Dec. 14, a special day for me, to which Shell's former governor Bobby Kanapi has promised me a scoop.

* * *

"Rest assured you will get your birthday wish if negotiations materialize," Bobby's text message the other day read.

Bobby has denied for the second time that he is doing business with a PBL team, although he admitted that current negotiations with a couple of prospects are ongoing and looking bright.

I'd like to believe him, but I've been getting reports to the contrary. The reports come from people within the PBL team, which I heard plans to retain its amateur squad.

Parker lifts Spurs past Mavericks

DALLAS, TEXAS—TONY PARKER scored 20 of his 30 points in the second half as the National Basketball Association champions San Antonio edged Dallas, 92-90, on Thursday.

Led by Parker, the defending champion Spurs avenged a 103-84 loss to the Mavericks here on Nov. 5.

After a turnover by Keith Van Horn, Parker made a driving layup with 35 seconds remaining to give the Spurs the lead for good at 87-86.

Michael Finley made two free throws for a three-point lead before Devin Harris converted a layup with 19 seconds left to pull the Mavs within 89-88.

Finley split two free throws and, after Harris missed a jumper, Parker sank two free throws with 12 seconds to go for a 92-88 advantage.

The Spurs nearly let the Mavs force overtime when Brent Barry fouled Dallas' Marquis Daniels, who was attempting a 3-pointer, with 6.1 seconds remaining.

Daniels made the first two free throws but missed the third. Spurs superstar Tim Duncan grabbed the rebound but was called for traveling, giving the Mavericks a final shot.

However, Dirk Nowitzki missed a jumper as time expired. Nowitzki struggled the whole night, scoring 14 points on 3-of-13 shooting.

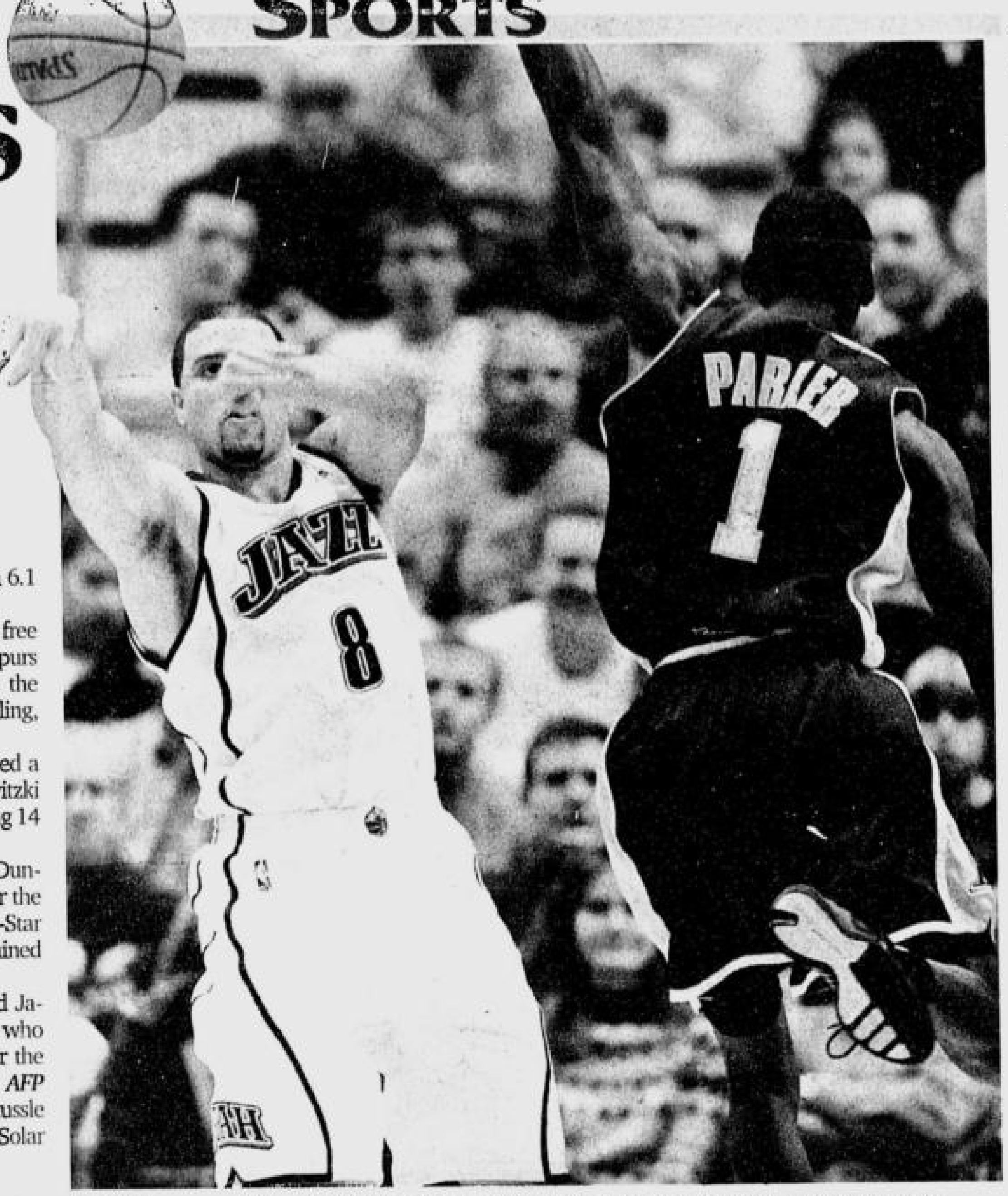
Finley scored 15 points and Duncan had 13 and 14 rebounds for the Spurs, who played without All-Star Manu Ginobili due to a sprained right ankle.

Daniels scored 24 points and Jason Terry 18 for the Mavericks, who have lost consecutive games for the first time this season. *AFP*

The Charlotte-Golden State tussle will be shown at 11:30 a.m. on Solar Sports.

Complete Results

San Antonio 92, Dallas 90; LA Lakers 105, Utah 101 (OT)



UTAH Jazz guard Deron Williams passes off as Los Angeles Lakers guard Smush Parker comes at him in their game won by the Lakers. REUTERS

Hopkins vows to get back at Taylor

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—BERNARD HOPKINS, still seething over the controversial decision that saw Jermain Taylor take away his undisputed world middleweight title, says he won't leave it to the judges in Saturday's rematch.

"Dec. 3 is going to rectify the system's problems," vowed Hopkins, who at 40 knows he has little time left to cement his status in ring history.

"This is the only fight that means something, so, yes, as far as how meaningful this fight is, this is the last fight," he says.

Taylor ended Hopkins' 10-year reign in the division—and the third-longest title run in boxing history—with a split decision, two judges giving him a 115-113 triumph with the third for Hopkins 116-112.

Hopkins won the final four rounds on the cards of all but one judge, but that scoring for Taylor in the 12th made the difference between a Taylor triumph and a draw that would have kept the crown in Hopkins' hands.

"Just because you have the belts doesn't mean you earned the belts," Hopkins declared as both fighters escalated the pre-fight war of words.

"I go in the ring knowing I'm defending for the 22nd time. I'm not in denial. I'm defending the people's belt. They know who won."

Hopkins fell to 46-3 with one draw in his first loss since dropping a 12-round decision to Roy Jones in 1993.

Taylor, who improved to 24-0 with the victory, comes into the rematch with a notable increase in swagger.

Taylor seems perfectly sure that the middleweight belts are exactly where they belong.

"Bernard Hopkins was an excellent champion. Now there is a new middleweight world champion, Jermain Taylor," he said. "I know I didn't prove myself the last time but I did enough to win the fight. Everybody who knows me knows I will take care of business this time."

Taylor said he believes he's seen all Hopkins has to offer.

"I don't think he can do anything different this time," Taylor said. "He thought he could knock me out, but he found out he couldn't."

Taylor said he learned from the first fight and won't be caught off guard by another late run from Hopkins.

Hopkins is being trained by Naazim Richardson rather than long-time trainer Bouie Fisher. Hopkins denied reports he parted ways with Fisher over money and said he was dedicating the fight to his veteran cornerman. *AFP*

AGASSI: Not retiring

Agassi confirms for Kooyong stint

MELBOURNE—WORLD NUMBER seven Andre Agassi has confirmed he will play next month's Kooyong Classic tennis tournament in Australia, proving he has no immediate plans to retire.

Agassi will be making his ninth appearance at the invitational tournment from Jan. 11-14, which precedes the Australian Open, the year's first grand slam beginning on Jan. 16.

"We at Kooyong, along with thousands of Andre's adoring fans, will be thrilled to see him in action again on the historic center court next January," tournament director Colin Stubbs said in a statement. "It will be business as usual for him."

The evergreen Agassi, who turns 36 next April, will join world number one Roger Federer, number three Andy Roddick and Masters Cup winner David Nalbandian in the event.

Nalbandian's Argentine compatriot Guillermo Coria, Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic and Germany's Tommy Haas are also in the field.

One more spot remains open in the eight-man draw with Stubbs expected to make an announcement on the final player next week. *Reuters*

Eagle Ridge relaunches invitational Dec. 7-10

THE EAGLE RIDGE GOLF AND Country Club is set to relaunch its member-guest invitational on Dec. 7-10 at the Faldo and Norman courses of the country's biggest golf club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Organizers of the annual event have decided to rename the tourney as the Four x Fore Invitational to stress the importance of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club being the only club in the country to have four championship courses.

Participating teams may choose from the following schedules for their tee times: Norman Dec. 7 and Faldo Dec. 9, Faldo Dec. 7 and Norman Dec. 9, Norman Dec. 8 and Faldo Dec. 10 or Faldo Dec. 8 and Norman Dec. 10.

While the Four x Fore is being played at the two courses, walk-in guests and members not joining the Invitational will be able to play the Aoki and Dye courses of the club.

More than 150 teams have confirmed participation in the 36-hole event which will use the net aggregate system of scoring.

The list of early sponsors include Aqua Dynne Drilling, Pac-Sports, Microtel Inn & Suites, RS Night Hawk, House of Hana, SG Enterprises, WG Construction, GG&A Club Shares and Mr. Edwin Celino.

SPORTSWATCH

QC International Climbing Open on

EXTREME athletes from six countries are competing in the First Quezon City International Climbing Open which started on Thursday at the Amoranto Sports Complex. Organized by the Quezon City Sports Council and the Sport Climbing Association of the Philippines, Inc. (SCAPI), through the initiative of QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte and Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, the event features competitions in New Generation Sports, Sport Climbing, BMX and Skateboarding. The event has the support of Lactovitale, Timex, Aktivade, DWNU 107 and Total Woman Magazine. Top climbers from Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand are entered in the QC Games. The event will highlight extreme sports like, Bouldering, involving climbing tougher courses, with each climber being given four "boulder" problems to solve. National Team coach is Joey Cuerdo. QC Sports Council Director Rhauddy Hizon said these new forms of sports are youth-oriented.

NCA derbies scheduled at SJC

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association (NCA) will hold a series of derbies scheduled this month and the first half of 2006 at the world-class and fully air-conditioned San Juan Coliseum. The opener is set on Dec. 12 and 14 with hosts Rene Medina and Ric de Guzman of San Francisco, California, USA. Rizal Gov. Casimiro "Ito" Ynares and Richard Bates will sponsor the second derby on Dec. 19 and 21 while the Sundance Group of Danny Valero and Phil Say will host the third derby on Jan. 8 and 11. In Metro Manila, the NCA members are Ito Ynares, Narciso Y. Santiago Jr., Gerry Ramos, Louie Cua, Patrick Antonio, Manny Santos, Tony Tan, Pepito Ngo, Philip Menez, Joey Dy, Ruel Ricafort, Danny Valero, Phil Say and Boy Jiao. In Northern Luzon, Rudy Albano and Edgar Santos; in Central Luzon, Frank Berin, Jun and Rudy Jingco, Jet Fernando, Alex Escalona, JV Magsaysay, Boyet Joson, Ellan Nagano and Amboy Manlapaz; in Southern Luzon, Pol Estrellado, Blandy Tolentino and Richard Bates; in Negros Occidental, Boy Velez, Johnny and Julio Jalandoni and in Mindanao, Claude Bautista and Butch Pichay. At present, the NCA has four scholars majoring in veterinary science and poultry science at UPLB and 12 computer science scholars at Miriam Computer School in Quezon City.

Cavite International Derby today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the Cavite 7-Cock International Derby sizzles today at the Cavite Coliseum Derby Center and Casino, with 80 fights lined up beginning at 5 p.m. Expected to figure prominently are pacesetters Lito Orillaza (WTJ PCAP 3M Dec. 12), Winchester Gold entry, Sen. Bong Revilla (Exodus II), Ronald Singson (Chavit Siete Pares), Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano (Pasko Sa Pasay Dec. 16) Jun Topacio and Patrick Antonio (PAJT Brgy. McKinley Complexor 3000), Ruel Ricafort (RT 114), Rey Castaneda (RC LA Spurs), Dorie Du (Iloilo Dec. 16), Efren Canlas (Bacolor Gold), Vic Sison (VGS 808), I. Arroyo (Red Creek San Luis) and RGR entry. The champion will receive a giant trophy from former Sen. Ramon Revilla who will donate part of the proceeds to charity. For details, call 0915-5742399 and 0469704810 (look for Ferdie Bautista or Mandy).

5-cocker submission of weights

SUBMISSION of entries to Roligon Mega Cockpit's Incredibol Na, Apordabol Pa 5- cock derby is set on Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The event staking P2 million and a brand new Mazda unfolds on Dec. 5, 7, 10 and 12. Entry fee is P8,800. The first round eliminations on Monday will start at 2 p.m. "We expect more than 300 entries based on numerous cockhouse reservations received, "host Rolly Ligon said. Last year's 'Apordabol' attracted 328 entries. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812.

Rural Bankers top Am Flight D

BAGUIO CITY—THE TEAM REPRESENTING the Rural Bankers Golf Association of the Philippines closed out with an 82 yesterday to bag the Am Division Flight D title at the conclusion of the second Seniors Fil-Invitational at the Baguio Country Club course.

Doy Mercado scored 24 points via the Stableford scoring system to lead the Rural Bankers. Chito Recto and Severino Oliva supported him up with 21 apiece and Sim Buyco added 16. Team skipper Eduardo Bucag's 13 did not count.

With their previous rounds of 80, 91 and 80, the Rural Bankers came up with 333 to win their first Fil-Am Invitational title by a whooping 34 points over Capitol Hills GC which combined for 69 and 299.

Baguio Country Club carded 87 for 311 to rule Flight E and Stallion shot 54 for 251 to top Flight F.

The team captains meeting at Camp John Hay and practice rounds at both courses capped yesterday's action for the 56th regular Fil-Am Invitational starting Monday, Dec. 5.

"Big time golf continues," said Baguio Country Club general manager Anthony de Leon and John Hay GC GM Bong Vilchez, the executive committee co-chair of the annual event listed in the Guinness Book Records as the world's largest.

This year's field—195 players from 36 teams in the second Seniors and 813 bets from 80 teams in the 56th regular—is a record in the tournament.

Smart Communications, Wilson Sports, Eva Air and Club Car are this year's major sponsors. Citibank, San Miguel Corp., Travel Club, Information Professional Inc. (IPI), Ottica Eyewear, Ayala Land, Orchard Le Tigre, U-Bix Corp., Raymundo Trophies and Sculptures and Swing Magazine are the other backers.

The talent-laden Nike leads the international field of players coming from United States mainland, Hawaii, Guam, Australia, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. It dominated the event last year by sweeping the team and individual titles in Fil and Am divisions.

Expected again to challenge Nike in the Fil and A Divisions are Manila Southwoods and Del Monte. Juvic Pagunsan, Jay Bayron and Jun Bernis, who are playing for the Philippines in the current SEA Games will play for Nike in the Fil.

Carrying the Nike squad in the Am Division are team manager Tommy Manotoc, his promising son Matthew, J.R. Tanpingco, Dave Hernandez and Ronnie Torrecampo.

The other division team and individual titles to be disputed in the event ending Dec. 10 are in Flights A, B and C.

Azuaga arrives for duel with Peñalosa

By Nikko Dizon

PARAGUAY'S REIGNING BANtamweight champion, Feliciano Dario Azuaga, arrived yesterday afternoon to face off with the Philippines' Gerry Peñalosa in a non-title fight scheduled on Saturday, Dec. 10.

The parity fight serves as Peñalosa's debut into the international bantamweight division after having fought in the super flyweight division, according to Cristina Rimando of Jemah Communications in a press conference held at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Jemah Communications organized the fight between Peñalosa and Azuaga.

Azuaga arrived with his trainor, Santos Alvarez of Argentina, at 2 p.m. via Malaysian Airlines flight MH 704.

In a press conference, Azuaga, through an interpreter, said that he came to the Philippines "to do his job".

Known as "El Indio de Oro", the 31-year-old Azuaga said that while he has his limitations and Peñalosa has more years of experience in boxing, he will be banking on his own triumphs in the ring to emerge victorious in the upcoming fight.

"You won't regret seeing this game because they're going to do their best," Alvarez added, also through the interpreter.

The 34-year-old Peñalosa, the brother of another former world champion Dodie Boy, arrived at the Dignitaries' Lounge of the Naia to greet Azuaga and Alvarez.

Rimando said Azuaga emerged as the "best choice" among 15 international bantamweight fighters to initiate Peñalosa, whose last fight was in November last year, into the division.

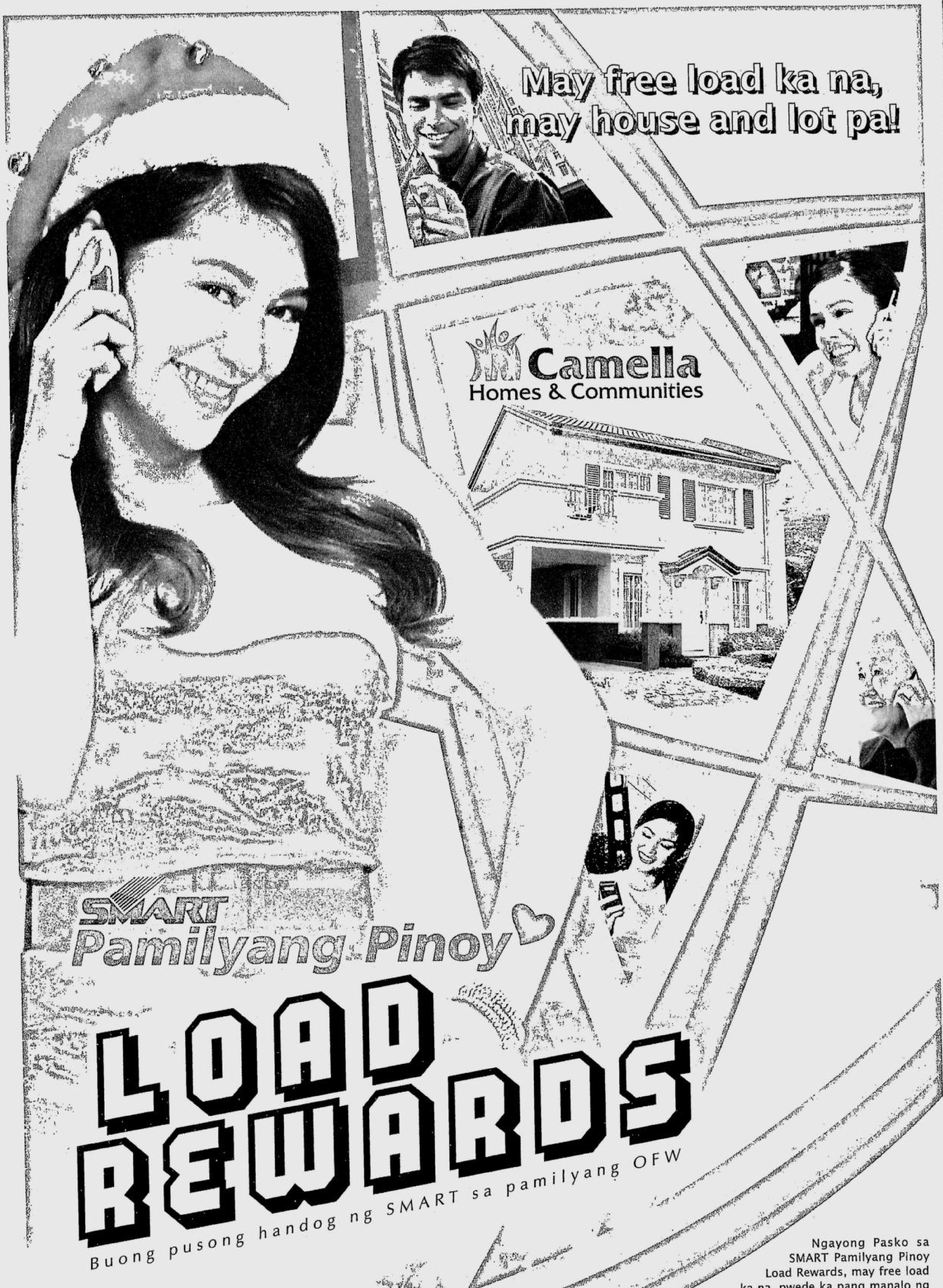
Azuaga was also a former WBO Latino bantamweight champion.

PEÑALOSA fighting Japanese Masamori Tokushima in this file photo.

Ramirez PNTCC champ

SUBIC—THE INTENSE RIVALRY between San Miguel Beer-Erg driver Jody Coseteng and Enzo Pastor turned in favor of Petron Ultron-SRA skipper Kookie Ramirez who was declared champion in Round 5 recently in the highly successful debut of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 at the Subic International Raceway here.

Ramirez actually finished second to Pastor, who clocked a total time of 23:13.789 seconds in Round 5 of this event duly sanctioned by the governing Autmobile Association of the Philippines and But Coseteng filed a protest against Pastor who claimed he was bumped during the takeoff, resulting in a broken rear bumper that forced him to take the pits and end up only fifth.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Triumph and tragedy in Charlie Chaplin's life

DOWNEY (inset) starred in Richard Attenborough's bioflick on Chaplin (above).

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM TIMOTHY Herania: "I love watching film classics. Recently, I sat through a screening of Charlie Chaplin's 'City Lights,' and thoroughly enjoyed it. Did he really lead a life full of sadness and tragedy?"

Charlie Chaplin was born in 1889 in London, but his contributions to the world of cinema and his unique screen persona remain indelibly etched in our minds 106 years later: The signature moustache, bowler hat, wobbly cane and baggy trousers. Unknown to many, however, personal tragedies hounded the legendary comic.

Mental asylum

At age nine, Charles had to learn to fend for himself when his singer/actor father died, while his mother, an opera singer, was consequently committed to a mental asylum (where she stayed for the rest of her life).

The lure of the legitimate stage was a welcome, quick escape from the dark realities of his young life. At 11, he distinguished himself as an outstanding tap dancer, which soon led to his theatrical debut—as a page boy in "Sherlock Holmes," a stint that jump-started his career in vaudeville shows. The successful production soon found its way on the road to the US. The rest is history!

Artistic freedom

Chaplin found fame appearing in 12 two-reel comedies. But, to gain more artistic freedom in his cinematic endeavors, he decided to produce his movies. At 30, he was already a millionaire many times over.

The United Artists Corporation, his collaboration with Hollywood pioneers, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and D.W. Griffith, introduced a new system in the film business—where stars became their own employers!

At 32, he released "The Kid," followed by "Woman of Paris," "Gold Rush," "City Lights" (considered by many film historians as one of the best movies of all time), "Modern Times," "The Great Dictator" (where he was first heard talking onscreen), "Monsieur Verdoux (the first time the public sees Chaplin *without* his traditional moustache, hat and cane), and "Limelight."

Lackluster

His last film, the lackluster Sophia Loren-Marlon Brando starrer "The Countess from Hong Kong" (1967), which he co-produced, featured him only in a cameo.

Chaplin was a quiet man who kept to himself. Even after he had accumulated millions, he continued to live in shabby accommodations, and kept his studio checks in an old trunk!

His legion of fans includes Woody Allen, who admits that the most obvious lesson he had learned from Chaplin was his uncanny ability to interweave dramatic moments with wacky comedy. "Mr. Bean's" Rowan Atkinson considers him "the Beatles of silent comedy."

Trivia: Charlie was only five when he made his first appearance onstage: He had to sing a song in lieu of his ailing mother.

He played a swindler in his first movie, "Making a Living."

Perfectionist

His perfectionist streak drove him to destroy the original negatives of a completed film, "The Sea Gull." (He was dismayed by the performance of his lead actress, Edna Purvance.)

At his peak, he finished 35 movies—in one year alone!

His tumultuous personal life was tabloid fodder: Four marriages and 11 children! Tired of the controversies that hounded him (including a particularly messy tax case, and accusations that he was supporting communism), he rescinded his US citizenship and left for Switzerland in 1952. He died in his sleep on Christmas Day in 1977.

The scene in "City Lights" where Chaplin buys a flower from the blind girl was shot 342 times! The film was also his longest undertaking (shot between 1927 to 1931).

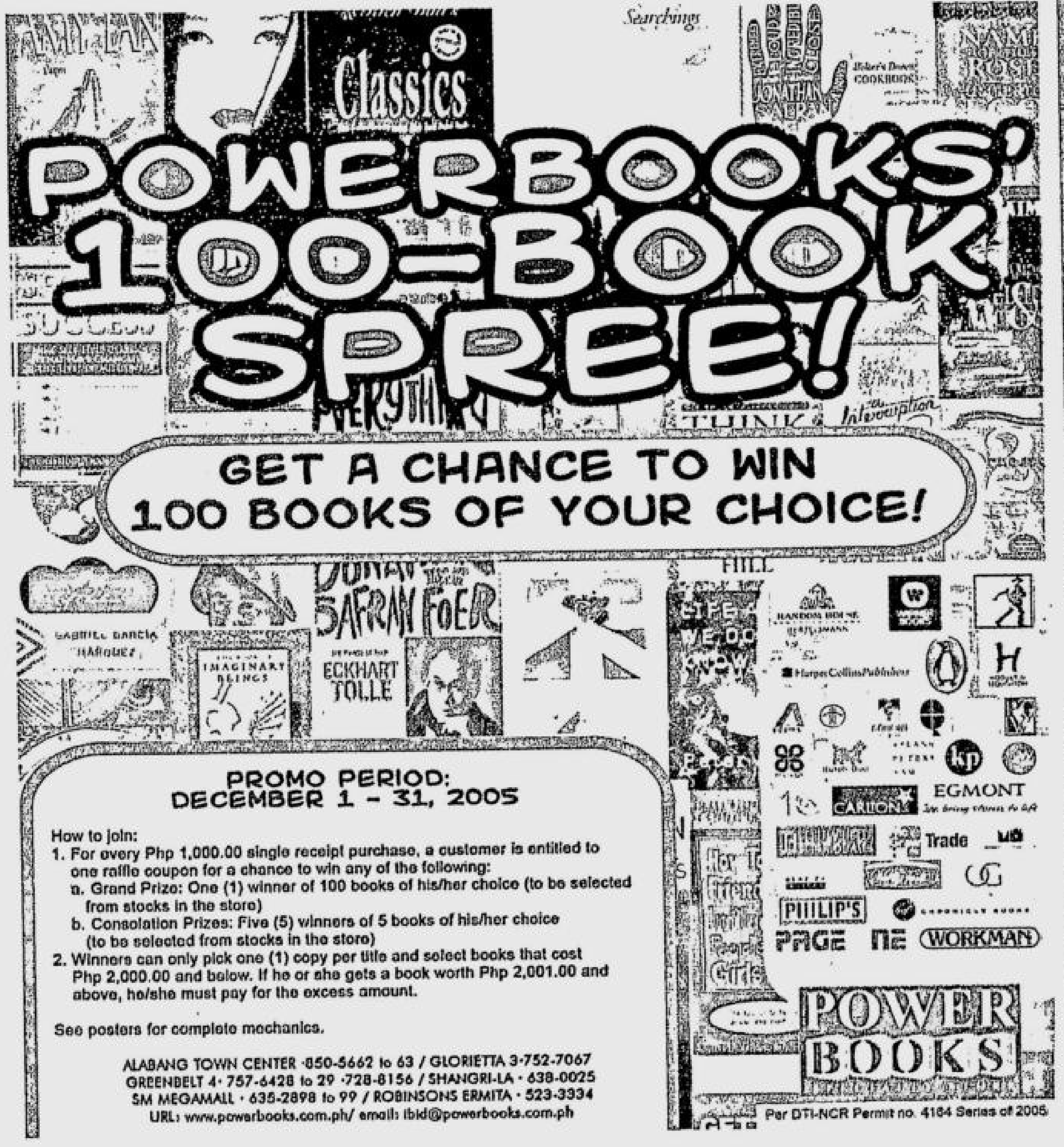
Menace to society

"The Great Dictator" (1937) attacked the Nazi ideology long before Hitler was widely perceived as a menace to society and history. (The movie was also Chaplin's first all-talking film.)

Fittingly, Chaplin wrote one of history's most enduring songs, "Smile." Even after his death, however, Chaplin remained controversial: In 1978, Chaplin's corpse was stolen from its grave—and wasn't recovered for three months! (He was later re-buried in a vault surrounded by cement.)

In 1992, Richard Attenborough directed "Chaplin," the highly-acclaimed biopic, which starred Robert Downey Jr (as the Little Tramp), Moira Kelly, Anthony Hopkins and Kevin Kline.

Comedians come and go, but Chaplin's legacy lives on!



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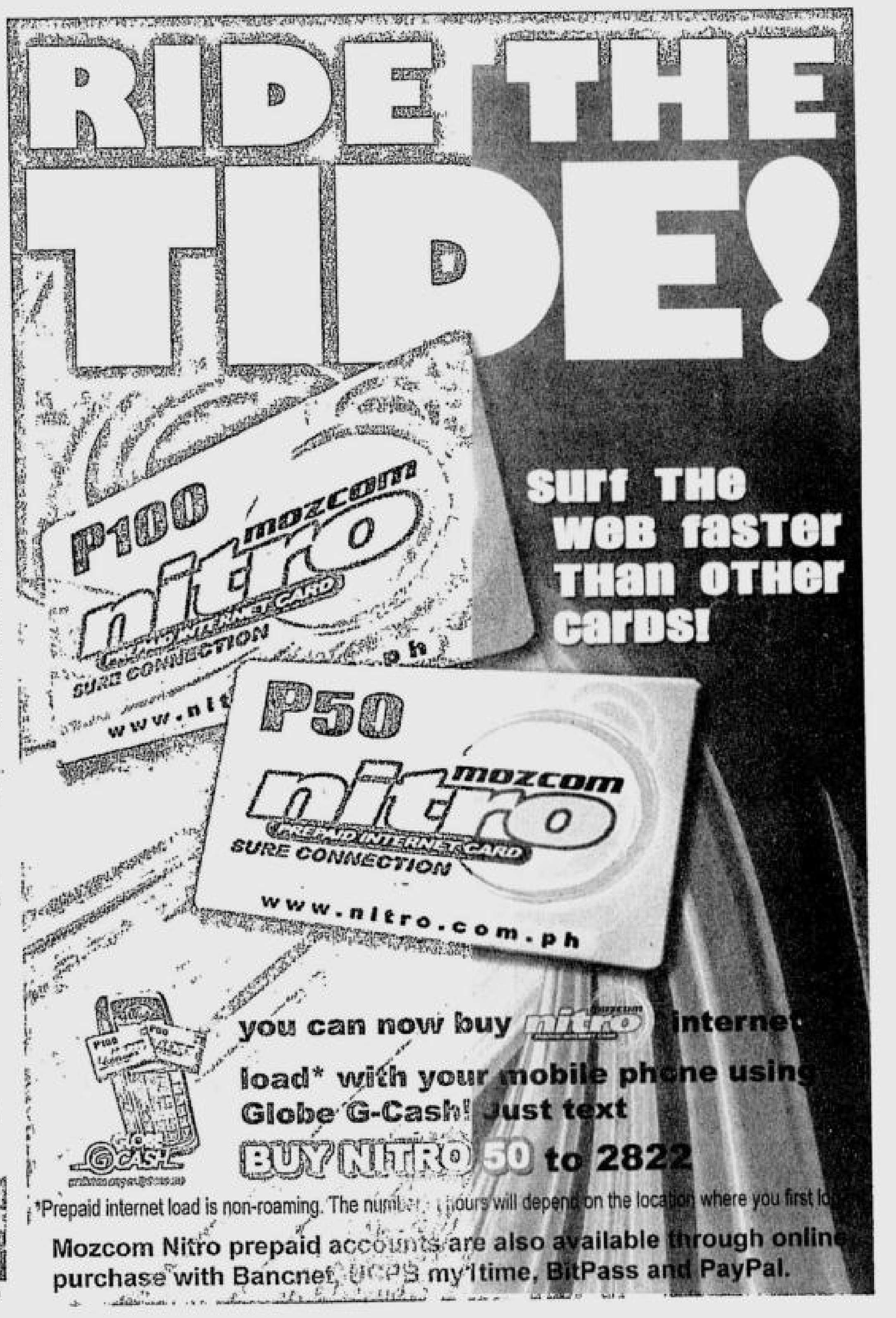

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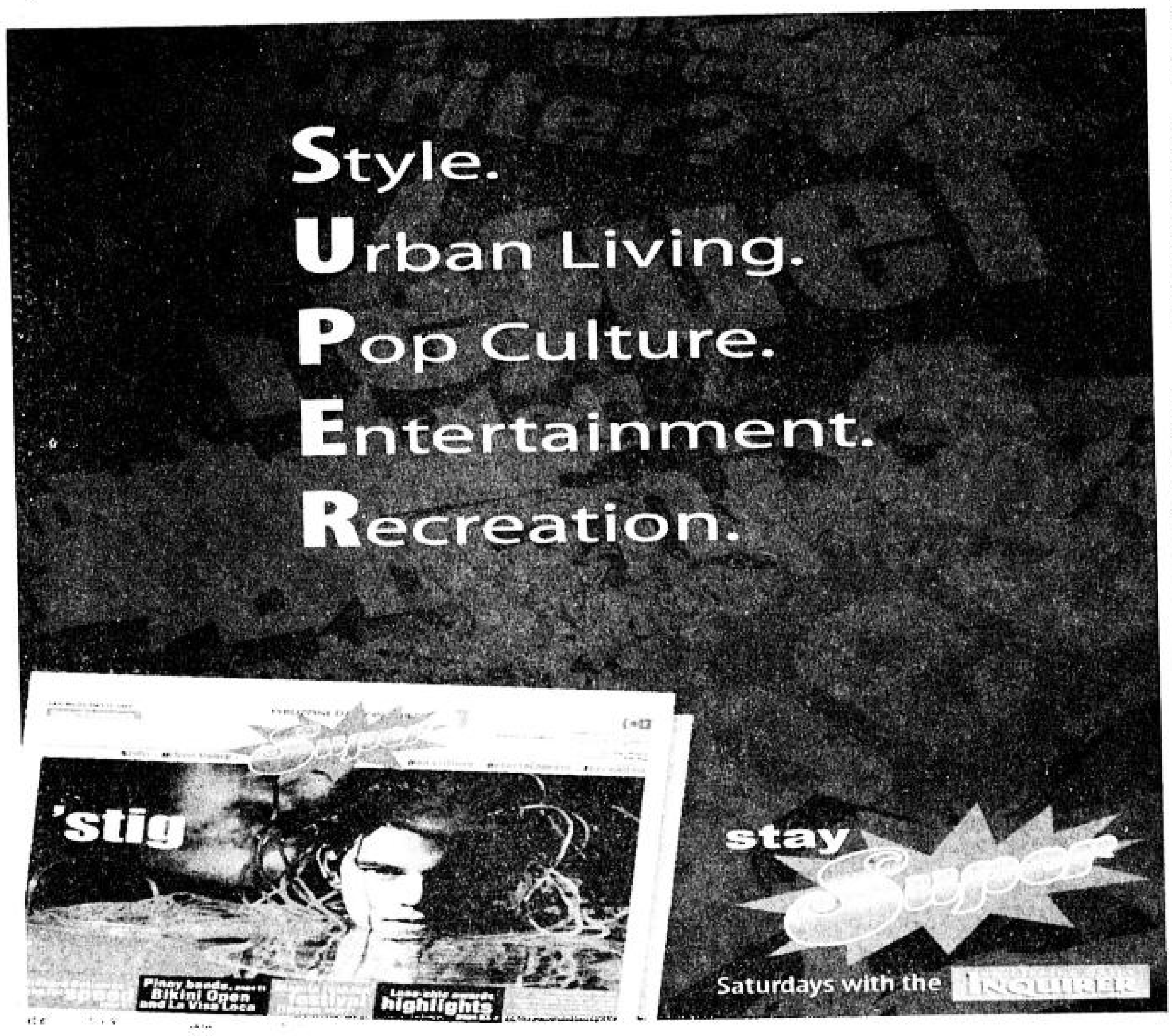
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STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

WILMA REDLER IS FROM MODAE, THE POPcorn capital of Iowa where she raised corn and soybeans. She took up business and psychology at the Washington State University. Initially, she trained as a dental technician.

But after seven years, she put up Modern Dental Arts, a dental lab in Omaha, Nebraska. The company has been distributing dental supplies for 20 years. After she sold her lab, she visited the Philippines in 1998—and found her niche here.

Goal

Now a resident of White Plains, Wilma will turn 70 next year. She is the founder of Feathered Friends Foundation and the CDT Master Ceramist. She is also the vice president of Skytech International Dental Laboratories, and the president of the Rotary Club of United Nations-Manila, whose goal is to protect the environment, with the assistance of our Mangyan brothers.

Her group goes to the Rotary Mangyan Village every three months to conduct medical and dental missions. During their last visit, I documented the ceremonial installation of a water system that will serve three communities, whose residents have to travel for two hours to fetch a bucket of water! Due to scarcity of water, skin diseases, eye infections and hygiene are constant concerns.

The community now has a Mangyan meeting hall that serves as a livelihood center and as a school. Call 713-6282 to 83.

* * *

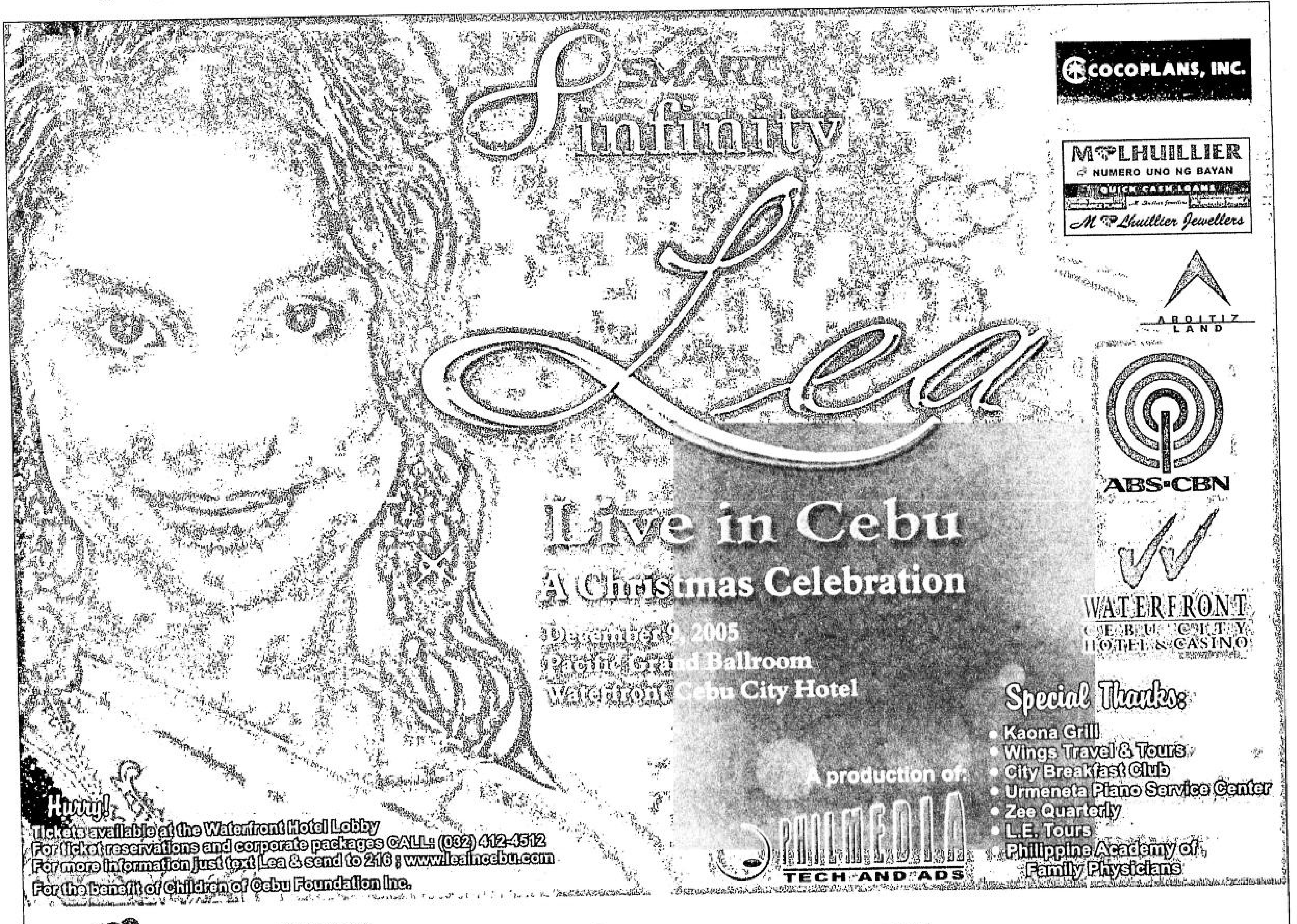
LRI Business Plaza holds a Christmas Bazaar today and tomorrow at 210 Nicanor Garcia st., Bel Air II, Makati City. Still ongoing is LRI's second anniversary celebration, "Lifestyle in Motion," which includes displays on "Celebrity Showcase, Celebrities Reading," our photo exhibit featuring 20 personalities and four visual artists: Gabriel Barredo, Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, Juan Caguicla and Rom Villaseran.

* * *

Chino Gutierrez, a teenage prodigy in violin and a scholar at the Munich State Academy of Music (under the tutelage of German pedagogue Jens Ellerman), will have a solo recital on Dec. 6 at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat ave., Makati City. Call 0927 987-5737.

Email mandynavasero@photopro.com, or call 899 -1767

GUTIERREZ. Solo recital at RCBC Plaza on Dec. 6.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'Chicken Little' lacks crossover appeal

By Noelani Torre

IT'S NOT ONLY THE SKY THAT falls in "Chicken Little," but also the house of Disney. Fall might be a harsh way to put it, but it's been pretty obvious for some time now that Disney has been suffering from a decline in quality. Its most recent 2-D animated features have failed to make an impression on audiences, and its success in the 3-D CGI field has come *via* its association with Pixar.

Pixar wasn't around when "Chicken Little" was hatched, however—and it shows. The first Disney-produced computer-animated feature, "Chicken Little" is as bright as a new penny, as cute as a button—and just as negligible.

Sympathetic characters

The film hits all of the CGI bells and whistles that Pixar and DreamWorks have made us come to expect—vibrant colors, detailed rendering, and sympathetic, charming characters. Pop culture references, tongue-in-cheek humor, and pop songs *ala* "Shrek" in both the film itself and the soundtrack are all present and accounted for.

Unfortunately, there are also several important things that have been left out of the equation—a heart, a soul, and a story.

The classic "Chicken Little" tale—where a silly chicken gets hit on the head by an acorn and proceeds to run around, screaming: "The sky is falling!"—takes all of one minute to tell. Disney's reworking of it takes 80 minutes.

Fable

The original story is a fable on the dangers of alarmism. In Disney's version, it becomes the story of a father and son trying to work out relationship problems, about underdogs who eventually triumph, and about alarmists who turn out to be telling the truth.

You see, the sky in "Chicken Little" *is* really falling. Aliens are involved, and they invade the planet to the tune of the chorus of R.E.M.'s "End of the World."

Directed by Mark Dindal, the movie is buzzing with action, and it has some very funny gags. But, it's also chaotic, and barely held together by a cellophane-thin plot that doesn't bother much with character development.

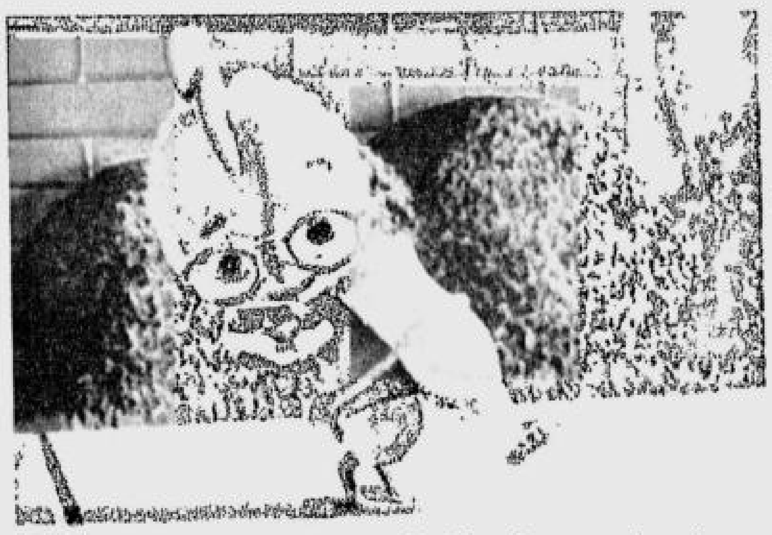
Two-dimensional

Chicken Little (Zach Braff) is a cute bird, but we can't really connect with him. His character remains two-dimensional because he doesn't really do anything. Oh, sure, he's resourceful, and he saves the world, but because they've squeezed a lot of things into the story, he just speeds by in a blur.

There's no doubt kids won't really be bothered that the characters are flat, but the adults who'll be watching with them will want more—and the reason why Pixar's films have been so successful is because they have crossover appeal.

"Chicken Little" is no "Finding Nemo." Even "Madagascar" is a tad better! *That* one, at least, had originality.

In "Chicken Little," it's as though Disney researched the successful elements of previous successful computer-animated films and cobbled them all together. Now, that's marketing, not filmmaking.

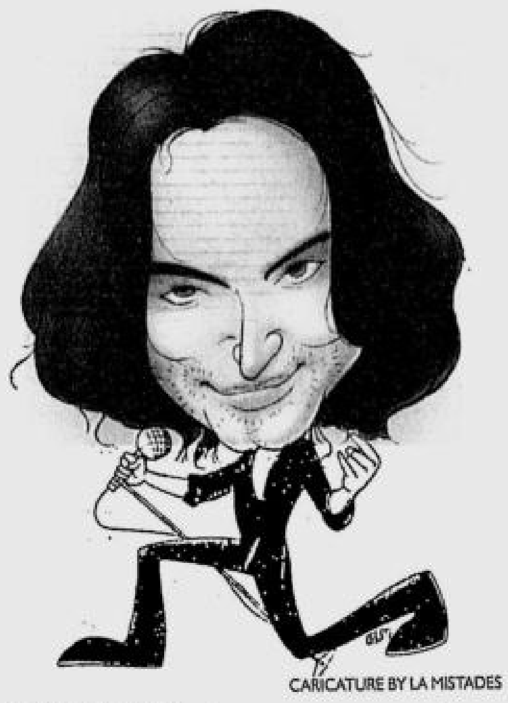


THE FILM'S title character is a cute bird, but viewers can't really connect with him.

Constantine rocks Manila

By Ronald G. Mangubat

FOR MORE THAN an hour, thousands of cheering fans screamed and shrieked as Constantine James Maroulis of "American Idol" fame rocked Greenbelt 3 in a free concert recently, bringing with him a pastiche of energetic, upbeat songs that sent some ladies wailing.



CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

MAROULIS. Intense, raw energy and roguish sex appeal.

Audience

Surprisingly, while most of the audience belonged to the younger generation, some old folks joined the Constantine mania. We caught a hip septuagenarian woman stomping her feet and screaming as the 29-year-old Greek-American performer did his famous head-banging movements.

It was more than just the long, tousled locks and the sly grin—it was his intense, raw energy and roguish sex appeal that added up to his magnetic magic.

Stage presence

From the moment he took the stage up to his encore, Constantine held the screaming audience in the palm of his hand.

This artist had stage presence, a skill he probably mastered even as a student (he holds a degree in fine arts, majoring in musical theater and minoring in voice from the Boston Conservatory) and as the lead vocalist of the post-grunge rock band Pray for the Soul of Betty.

He knew how to work the crowd, and even inserted dramatic pauses in between the last bars of his songs. He winked, stared, gyrated and raised his arms—and the screams never stopped!

Constantine's most applauded numbers were Khani Cole's "You've Made Me So Very Happy," Seal's "Kiss From a Rose," "Every Little Thing" by The Police and "Moon Dance," recently popularized again by Michael Bublé.

While his voice may not be as cool as the Canadian crooner's, Constantine's rougher version added grit that further enhanced his rugged appeal.

Best musicians

The rock artist expressed his thanks to members of his all-Filipino band, headed by the show's musical director, South Border's Jay Durias, and to his *Pinoy* backup singers. "I tell you, they're the best musicians I've ever worked with," he exclaimed.

When he expressed his joy to be in the country and commented, "I think I want to live here," a middle-aged woman, with typical *Pinoy* humor, unbashedly shouted: "Our house is big! You can live with us!"

For his encore, Constantine chose to sing Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," his fitting tribute to the immortal British quartet.

By that time, most of the people in the crowd were already singing along with him, as the "American Idol" finalist sang his last notes in dramatic falsetto.

If it's really hard to please the Manila crowd, Constantine Maroulis did it with flying colors!

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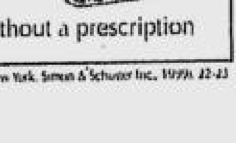

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It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	MIDNYT
Jingle Bells	JINGLE
Jolly Old St. Nicholas	STNIC
Joy To The World	JOY2DWRLD
O Christmas Tree	XMASTREE
O Come All Ye Faithful	FAITHFUL
O Holy Night	HOLYNYT
O Little Town of Bethlehem	LILTOWN
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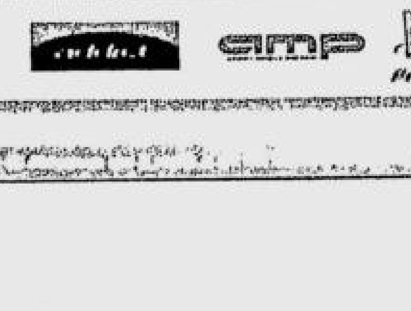

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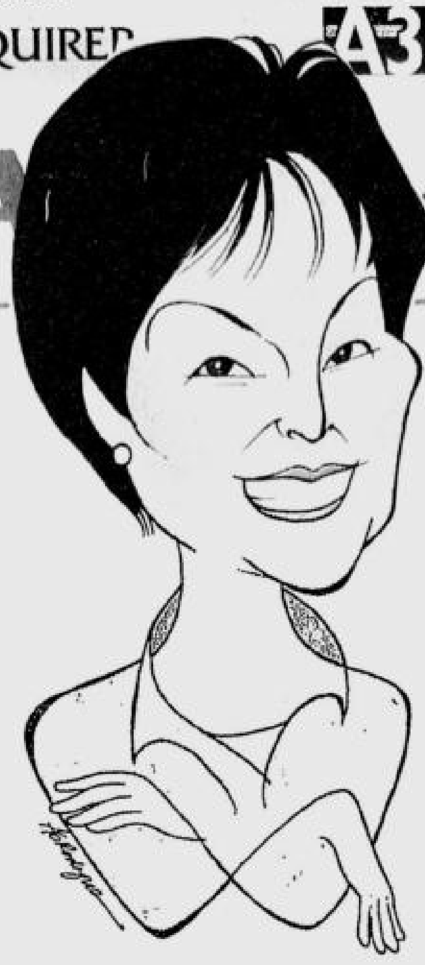
Boots Anson-Roa pays it forward

By Rito P. Asilo



CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

ROA. Treasure trove of memories.

WHEN I VISITED MOWELFUND TO CHAT with Boots Anson-Roa recently, I marveled at the enormous amount of show biz memorabilia on display at the facility's Pambansang Museo ng Pelikula.

The experience transported me back to the '70s and '80s when my twin brother and I, clad in red and blue capes and improvised masks, would breathlessly await reruns of *Pinoy* superhero flicks on TV like "Darna and the Giants" starring Vilma Santos; "Captain Barbell" with Victor Wood; "Supergirl" with Pinky Montilla; "Batman and Robin" starring Jun and Robin Aristorenas; "Super Gee" featuring Nora Aunor and "Darna Kuno"—with Dolphy in the title role!

Anecdotes

We later learned that Boots, Mowelfund's top honcho, can herself write a book or two about her treasure trove of experiences in local show biz that newcomers can learn a lot from. But, it was the amusing anecdotes and endearing side stories about her co-actors that got us hooked:

Didn't she find it difficult to work with superstars like Fernando Poe Jr., Nora Aunor, Vilma Santos or Sharon Cuneta? Boots shared: "There may have been instances of tardiness. But, when those stars arrived on the set, you could always depend on them to deliver the goods."

Long before FPJ and Joseph Estrada's political ambitions gained them as many enemies as they had followers, she recalled a shy and down-to-earth but playful duo who would play practical jokes on colleagues when they were together.

She reminisced, "Ronnie and Erap were so much fun when their defenses were down! *Makikita mo kung gaano sila kabait sa kapwa at kung gaano ka-pilyo—nang-gu-*good time! In one of my birthday parties, when it was already 4 a.m., *kami na lang nina* Ronnie, Susan (Roces), Charo (Santos-Concio), Joseph and Bibsy (Carballo) *ang natira, pinag-tripan nila ang* security guard just to see how he would react! *Nag-*drama *ang dalawa* (FPJ and Erap) *na kunwari, nag-aaway sila*—the poor security guard tried to appease them, but he didn't know what to do!"

Political plans

She added: "Ronnie would also talk to the maids, *at haharanahin niya sila*! When my father died three years ago, FPJ went to the wake very early in the morning after we left, but only the caretaker and my father's *yaya* were there. They went to the kitchen for coffee, and Ronnie told them about his political plans—even *before* he announced to us what his decision was!"

Ironically, Boots has only made one movie with superstar Nora Aunor: George Rowe's "Paruparong Itim" (1973), an adaptation of "The Miracle Worker," during the peak of Aunor's popularity. She shared: "*Minsan, nawawala si* Guy in the middle of the shooting, *pero pag nagtrabaho na, wala nang problema*. Vilma Santos' schedule is also difficult because she is a very busy person. My last movie with her was Regal's 'Mano Po 3.'"

Viva's first production, the glossy "P.S. I Love You," directed by Eddie Garcia, starring the loveteam of Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion, also comes to mind. "The film was my first mother role! *Nagliligawan pa lang sina* Sharon *at* Gabby *noon*. One time, while we were shooting a scene in a cemetery, *lumapit ang dalawa* and said: '*Tita* Boots, *kapag kinasal kami, ikaw ang ninang namin, ha?*'" She laughed, "That was in 1981. They were married three years later, but I was already in the US."

Vampires

Boots also had fond memories of Lino Brocka, who directed her in 1973's "Villa Miranda." Known for her wholesome image, Roa would only allow her leading men to kiss her on the neck—and colleagues would constantly crack jokes, comparing her partners to vampires and Count Dracula! She recalled, "*Kinakantyawan ako dati ni* Rita Gomez that I conceived all my four kids through Immaculate Conception!"

In a scene where she was supposed to share a passionate kiss with her lover (played by Butz Aquino), the legendary director finally lost his cool after five fruitless takes: "*Sinermunan ako ni* Lino in front of everybody: 'Boots, *ilang taon ka na?* (She was 27 then.) *Ilan na ang anak mo? Hindi mo ba alam kung ano ang ibig sabihin ng l***g?!*' Well, I'm ready now, Lino!," she laughed.

Indeed, Boots—soft-spoken, radiant and beautiful after all these years—has paid her dues. These days, however, the busy actress isn't about to slow down, and she's pinning her hopes on the film industry to get back on its feet.

She explained, "Last year, 53 local films were released. But, as of two months ago, the output was only about 20! Let's hope the success of digital films will help offset this situation."

Mowelfund has been running on deficit for three years now. Why does she continue to work under such stressful conditions? Well, Boots knows how to look back at a charmed life with grace and gratefulness. This time around, she wants to pay it forward: "The industry has been good to me—I've earned my keep, I've been able to save and invest. It's payback time!"

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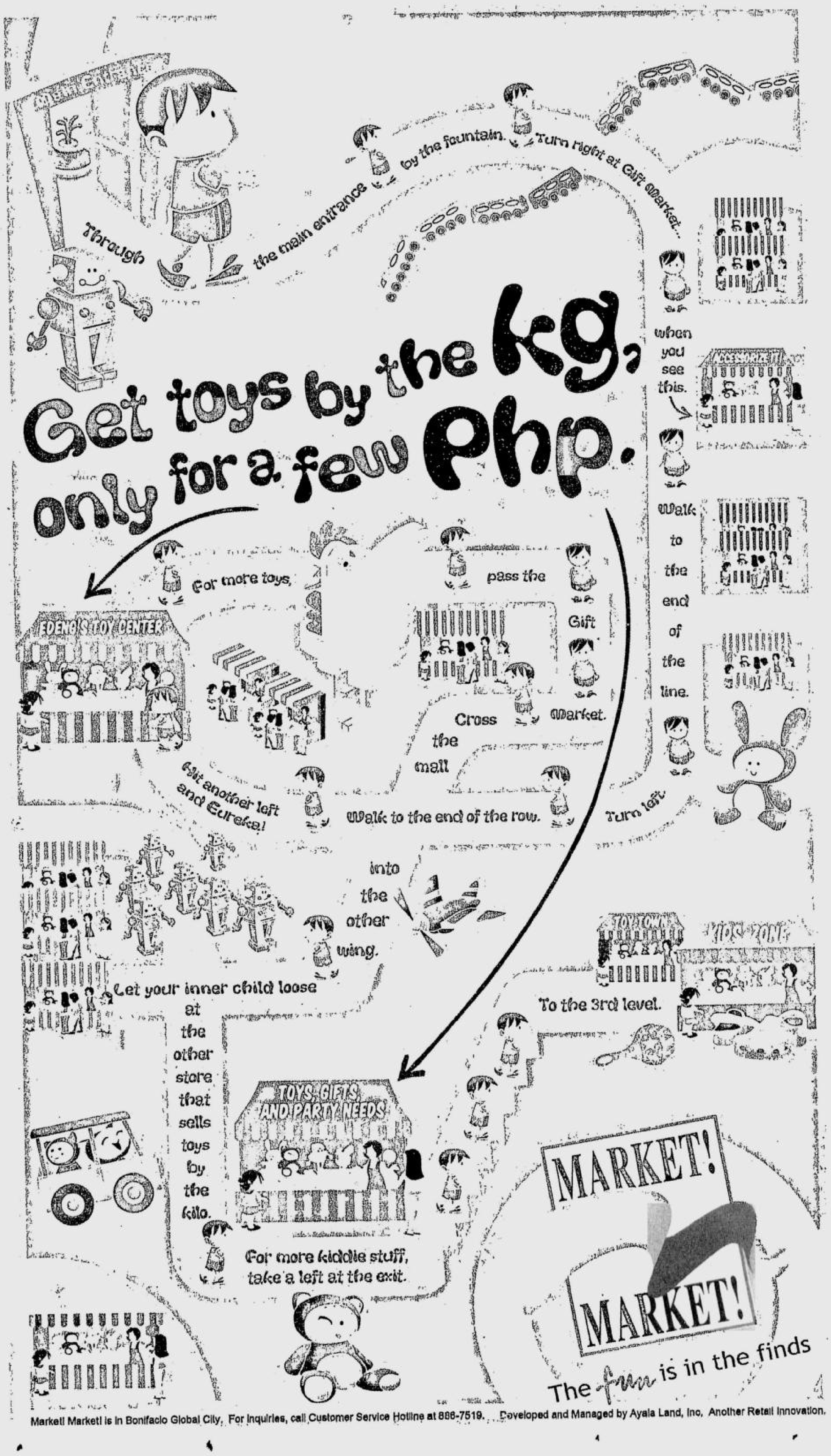

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Reese Witherspoon has one of her best years yet

By Nestor U. Torre

REESE WITHERSPOON IS having one of the best years in her acting career, with her big musical-drama turn in "Walk the Line" predicted to result in at least some acting nominations, perhaps even a couple of awards.

She has another new film, "Just Like Heaven," in which she's cast in a very different kind of role—she plays a ghost!

Reese traces the start of her career back to 1991, when she made an auspicious feature-film debut in the coming-of-age drama, "The Man in the Moon." She won plaudits for her performance as a teenager who experienced heartbreak and tragedy with her first love.

WITHERSPOON. Intense portrayal in "Walk the Line."

Comedy

She also did well in movies like "Cruel Intentions," "A Far-Off Place" and "Twilight," but her screen image remained relatively inchoate until she tried comedy in "Freeway."

Right off the bat, she delighted viewers with her button nose, feisty portrayal and spunky comedic delivery. She also won Best Actress awards at two international film festivals!

Sensing the she had latched onto a good thing, Reese went the same comedic route in "Pleasantville," and went on to star in two British period films, "Vanity Fair" and "The Importance of Being Earnest."

1999 was a threshold year for the young star: She shone in the satirical film, "Election," and received Golden Globe, Independent Spirit and American Comedy Award nominations, as well as a Best Actress award from the National Society of Film Critics and the Online Film Critics.

Reese's comedic career peaked with 2001's "Legally Blonde," where she was pluperfectly cast as the ditzy and indomitable Elle Woods, a role she instantly made her own.

Sequel

The movie was such a hit that it led to a sequel, "Legally Blonde, 2." Reese also went on to star in "Sweet Home Alabama."

In "Just Like Heaven," David (Mark Ruffalo) rents a quaint San Francisco apartment. He gets the surprise of his life when he discovers that the apartment's previous resident, Elizabeth (Witherspoon) hasn't left—despite the fact that she's now a ghost!

And, in "Walk the Line," Johnny Cash's film bio, Reese plays Cash's wife, June Carter, and scores with her intense portrayal of her character's roller-coaster life. For added impact and artistic commitment, Reese uses her own singing voice in her musical numbers in the film.

Oscars to honor Olivia de Havilland

LOS ANGELES—OSCARS ORganizers will honor Academy Award-winning screen legend Olivia de Havilland at a special ceremony next year, they announced recently.

The 89-year-old actress—who starred in such classic films as 1939's "Gone with the Wind," in which she played Melanie Hamilton—will be the subject of a tribute to be held in Beverly Hills on June 15, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said.

Double Oscar winner De Havilland, the sister of Joan Fontaine ("Rebecca")—was born in Tokyo in July 1916 of British parents, who later moved their family to Los Angeles.

DE HAVILLAND. Won Academy Awards for "To Each His Own" and "The Heiress."

Debut

De Havilland made her screen debut as Hermia in Max Reinhardt's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1935, and won recognition for her role opposite Errol Flynn in "Captain Blood" in the same year.

The duo teamed up for seven more movies, notably "The Adventures of Robin Hood," which transformed De Havilland into a star.

She won the first of her five Academy Award nominations for her supporting performance as Melanie in producer David O. Selznick's classic civil war epic, "Gone with the Wind."

Sister

Two years later, in 1941, her lead performance as Emmy Brown in "Hold Back the Dawn" was nominated, but she lost out on the Oscar to her sister Fontaine, who won for Hitchcock's "Suspicion." De Havilland won her first Oscar for her portrayal of Jody Norris in "To Each His Own" (1946).

She won a further nomination for "The Snake Pit" (1948) and won her second Academy Award statuette for her role as Catherine Sloper in "The Heiress" a year later. *AFP*

Shooting 'Syriana' was torture for Clooney

NEW YORK—IN A GRIPPING SEquence from his Middle East thriller, "Syriana," George Clooney is tortured and flung to the floor of a Beirut hideaway. In real life, the actor said that scene led to the "worst year" of his life.

The movie is currently getting Oscar buzz and positive reviews, though some wonder whether a complicated story about torture, terrorism, big oil and global politics can become a hit.

CLOONEY. Needed multiple surgeries.

CIA operative

Clooney plays Robert Baer, a real-life CIA operative, whose book, "See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's War on Terrorism," inspired the film, which director Stephen Gaghan shot in over 200 locations on four continents!

Baer wrote about risking his life in encounters throughout "Syriana," the code name for the world of militant Islam during the 1990s, and the subject added resonance following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and the anguished national debate over faulty intelligence.

Clooney was keen to plunge into the weighty thriller, and took the challenge literally.

He gained more than 30 pounds to play the part of the paunchy, bearded CIA operative. While some actors enjoy the chance to be freed from incessant dieting, it was torture for the fitness-freak actor.

"There was nothing fun about it," said Clooney. "That's not a slap on the film or Stephen Gaghan. It's just that, everybody has that year where you age a decade—and *this* was that one for me!"

In the film's most chilling moments, reminiscent of Iraq war scenes, Clooney is strapped to a chair and tortured. A shady Middle Eastern agent, disgusted at his refusal to talk, pulls out a serrated blade to behead him. Clooney, bound and blindfolded, is hurled to the floor.

Athletic

The scene was shot more than 20 times, with the athletic actor doing his own stunt work. In one take, Clooney hit his head and experienced extreme back and head pain. Doctors later discovered he had ruptured his spinal fluid sac, and he needed multiple surgeries.

"Creatively, it was the best year I ever had in my life," he said. "For the rest of it, it was the worst year." *Reuters*

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Raymond Lauchengco soars in comeback album

By Ronald G. Mangubat

AFTER YEARS OF absence from the limelight, Raymond Lauchengco returns to what he does best—singing. With his newly released album, simply titled "Raymond Lauchengco," fans are treated to 16 beautiful love songs, some of which are his old hits, rearranged to cater to a new generation of listeners.

LAUCHENGCO. Returns to what he does best.

If you're tired of noisy bands, you have to listen this album: Lauchengco is in full control of his voice, mixing pop and theatrical singing styles. It is, however, his heartfelt rendition of these songs that gives this album a new dimension.

Interpretation

Starting with his own cover of Paul Willams' "Save Me A Dream," Raymond dishes out love songs that tickle, thrill and tug at the heartstrings. The album contains his old hits, Odette Quesada's "Farewell," "I Need You Back," and "Then Maybe," Louie Ocampo's "Shadow of Time," and Cecile Azarcon's "So It's You" (which have recently been reinterpreted by new artists) and proves that the original versions are better than the new incarnations.

Our favorites are his more dramatic ballads like Willy Cruz' "Kapag Puso'y Sinugatan," George Canseco's "Saan Darating ang Umaga?," and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "As If We Never Said Goodbye" (from "Sunset Boulevard").

Raymond's voice soars in these songs, moves and haunts us long after the last bars have faded.

Treat

The album's added treat is Lauchengco's personal notes in the lyric sheet. He narrates how "Farewell" was originally a reject, how the late George Canseco "photo-finished" the lyrics of "Saan Darating Ang Umaga?" minutes before he first recorded the song, and why recording the show tune, "As If We Never Said Goodbye," is very special to him.

Ryan Agoncillo, jack of all trades

By Jocelyn Valle

FLIPPING THROUGH the menu of a Chinese restaurant, Ryan Agoncillo shakes his head. He's been on the South Beach diet that helped him lose 20 lbs. in one-and-a-half months—and he's determined to resist temptation! He decides to make do with leftovers from his packed meal of salami and lettuce.

AGONCILLO. Dabbles in acting in "Kutob."

First hosting gig

Ryan, 26, sure knows about fortitude and focus. He started doing TV and print commercials at age 14. At 19, while still in college, he bagged his first hosting gig on Channel 7's "mornings@gma," which in turn led to bigger opportunities. He got a lot of flak, though, when he chose to transfer to ABS-CBN.

He also earned endless ribbing from talent manager Alfie Lorenzo when he turned down an offer to star opposite Judy Ann Santos a few years ago.

Now, Ryan is reaping the rewards of his firm decisions. He's not only one of the busiest hosts around, he's also become an actor, entrepreneur and photographer—a jack of all trades, indeed!

"I feel I have already established myself in hosting, that's why I'm now willing to try acting," Ryan explains. "Krystala" introduced his tandem with Judy Ann Santos to the public—on screen and off. The pair recently headlined an episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

Horror flick

"The plan was for us to star in my first movie," says Ryan. "Unfortunately, it didn't work out. I'm now in the cast of the horror flick, 'Kutob,' which is an entry to Metro Manila filmfest. This is the third collaboration of Canary films, director Joey Reyes and the movie's main leads, Rica Peralejo and Marvin Agustin, but I didn't have a hard time fitting in because they are all my friends. But first, I talked to Juday and also sought permission from Alfie." Ryan describes his character, Carlo, a jerk—an antithesis to his

RYAN A3-3

Annie Brazil jazzes it up in live recording

BRAZIL. Experience is the best teacher.

By Remy M. Umerez

FIVE DECADES OF SINGING HAVE kept Annie Brazil always on the go. Indeed, no one sings the way she does!

It was in the '50s when Annie started singing in Manila and Japan. She traveled extensively and made her way around Asia's entertainment scene—Okinawa, Tokyo, Sydney, Singapore, Hong Kong and Bangkok. These days, she still sings occasionally in a jazz joint in New York, where she's based.

Biggest fan

Recently, Annie was bestowed an Asian-American Jazz Festival award in New York for her achievements. Her biggest fan is her son, Richard, who cooked up an intimate show at Merk's Bistro at Greenbelt 3 and recorded the concert live!

"She remained faithful to jazz even in times when the musical genre couldn't attract the big crowd that it deserved. She never lost touch of her individual style—and she survived!," he says.

Richard admitted that, at some point in his career, he had to shift to pop and folk music to make a living.

Contemporaries

Annie on the other hand, lives and breathes jazz—even as most of her contemporaries have already retired. Even when she's nursing a cold, Brazil manages to make it to engagements—as she did at Merk's last week.

"Once I start singing, something happens—the voice comes out, I don't know where it's coming from. My 'ritual' before a concert is to make the sign of the cross and entrust everything to the Lord," she reveals. When she closes her eyes as she sings, she pretends she's somewhere else.

The sound of experience has taken over youth, but as Annie explains: "It's the same sound, but there's more style now. It comes with experience. My motto is always to sing from the heart —don't mimic recordings! In life, as in singing, experience is the best teacher."

Annie has worked alongside jazz luminaries like Duke Ellington, Matt Monroe, Sarah Vaughn and Ellis Marsalis. She's always wanted to meet the legendary Ella Fitzgerald, but the jazz great passed away before Annie could meet her at a fund-raising concert in California.

Ryan Agoncillo, jack of all trades

From page A3-2

wholesome image. This doesn't worry him a bit. He says, "My fans are ready to see me in a different light."

He shows another facet of his personality when he takes photographs for magazines. What began as a subject in school—photography, that is—is now a big part of Ryan's life. In fact, he recently moved out of his pad to find a bigger place, a New York-type loft, which now serves as his residence *cum* studio.

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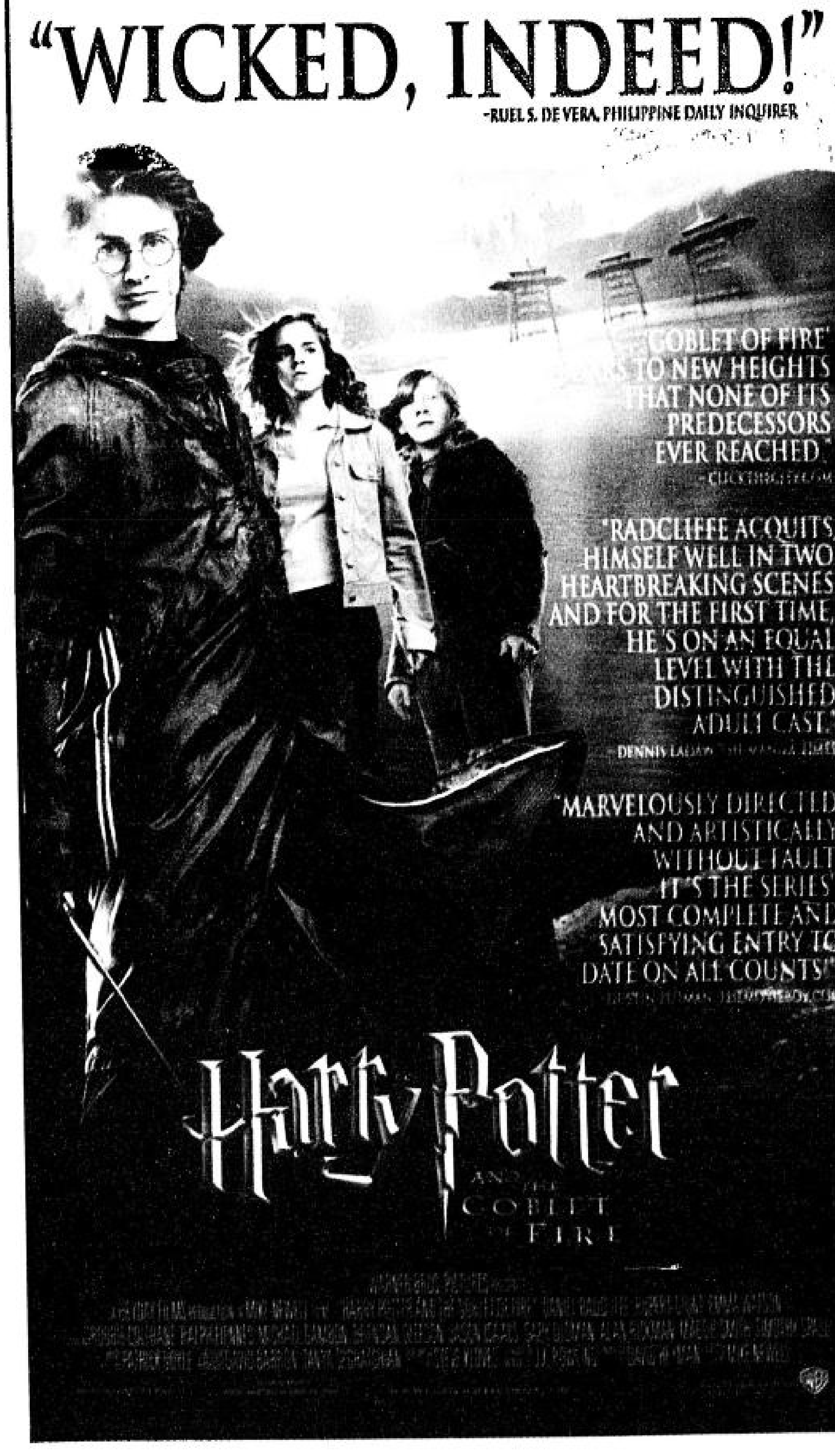
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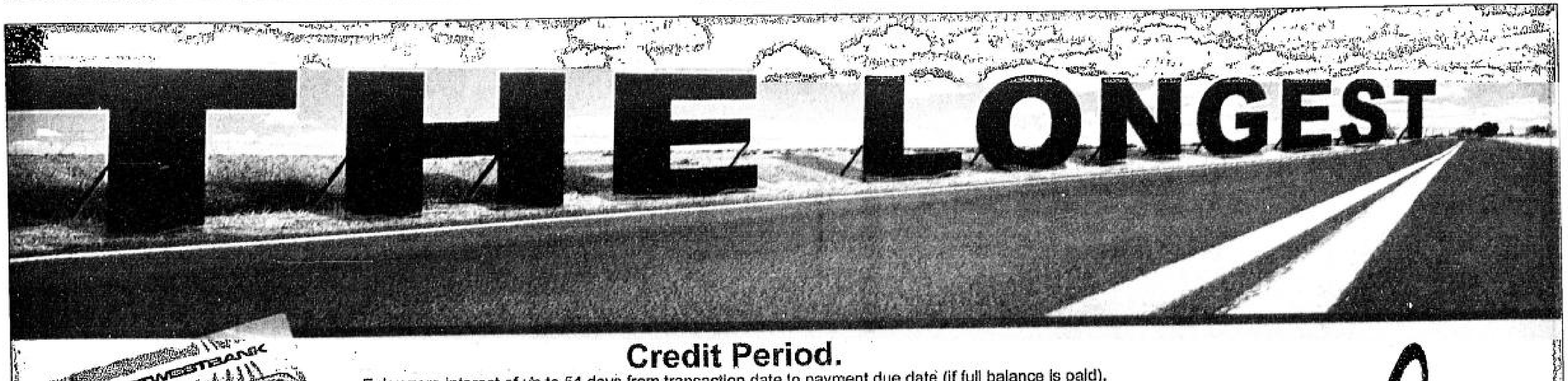
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GMA
Mister Donut

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Mister Donut
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Adam Sandler, Don Cheadle star in 9-11 movie

SANDLER. Plays a man who loses his entire family in the 2001 attacks.

LOS ANGELES—Don Cheadle and Adam Sandler are set to star in a new Hollywood drama focusing on the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, the industry press said recently.

Filmmaker Mike Binder, who made this year's drama, "The Upside of Anger," will write and direct the film, "Reign O'er Me," which will tell the story of a man (Sandler) who loses his entire family in the 2001 attacks.

Doctor

Sandler's character then runs into his former college roommate, played by Cheadle, who has become a doctor and who is determined to help his friend come to grips with his loss, Daily Variety said.

The industry bible said Sony Pictures Entertainment was aiming to buy the rights to the movie and shoot it next year with a budget under $20 million.

The Sept. 11 film is the third movie set to go into production as America's taboo on broaching the still highly sensitive topic begins to slowly wear off.

Triple Oscar-winning director Oliver Stone has begun production on the first major Hollywood feature film about the attacks that will premiere in August next year, one month ahead of the fifth anniversary of the tragedy.

Rubble

That as-yet untitled film, being made for Paramount Pictures, will tell the story of the last two people pulled from the rubble of New York's World Trade Center, which was destroyed by two hijacked jets. Stone's movie will star Nicolas Cage and Michael Peña.

In addition, "Bourne Supremacy" director Paul Greengrass is making "Flight 93," a film about what might have happened when passengers on a third flight, which crashed into a field in Pennsylvania, overpowered the hijackers.

AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Saturday December 3, 2005

Sayaw. Drama. Iba
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
ABC Iba Tayo!
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez

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For more TV schedules: Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. [illegible]

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Art Is-Kool	KNN	Anime Ring Kasho		PBA					Mr. Fighting		Blind Item		Wow Maling Mali					
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Nginiig		Little Big Star		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue	Magandang Gabi Bayan		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN								Mondo Magic	E Buzz	Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts					House			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	The Road Runner Show	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack				Cartoon Cartoon Show	Crush Gear Nitro	The Gransazers	Justice League	[illegible] 2021 (11:15PM)	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Cinemax	Shelter Island			An Officer And A Gentleman				Darkman III Die Darkman Die			The Bone Snatcher			Dave				Boa Vs Python (10:50PM)	
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	International Correspondents	World News	Spark	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Extreme Machines				Hour China		Wild Discovery				Guilty Or Innocent				Extreme Discovery	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Brandy & Mr Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Totally Spies	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN	Yachting Swedish Match Tour 2005/06				Goals!	Campbell's Int'l Figure Skating Chall: MN USA			X-Games Files 04	Acc / Big Ten Chall: Illinois Vs North Carolina		Sportscenter Asia	Nfl's Greatest Moments	Nfl's Greatest Moments	NBA Game: Knicks @ Pistons				
ETC		Saturday Night Live		For Love Or Money		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Miracles Of The Child Jesus	Angelus (3:15PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Knights Of St. Michael	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Church And The Poor: Building Bridges	Catholic Compass		The World Over Encore		Fr John Corapi		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Sacraments Through The Ages	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos/Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Peter Benchley's Creature				Peter Benchley's Creature				Long Shot				Gone But Not Forgotten					
HBO	The Last Ride			Landslide			My House In Umbria			How To Deal (7:15 PM)				Anacondas: The Hunt For The Blood Orchid			Mystic River (10:40PM)		
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nation's Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Basketball Show		SeaGames Special		Bitag		Philippine Sabong Sports			
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Fitter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				South Park	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
Lifestyle Network	Living Space			Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week		E! Extra My Crazy Life	Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Hanging Out	MTV Hits	Wade Robson Project	MTV Presents				Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out	MTV Cribs	MTV Livewire		Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5		Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Inside 911				Spain Wild!		Creature Feature				Cliffhangers		Crocodiles: Here Be Dragon		Big Bite Nito			
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Corporate Billiards League		Concert at the Park		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk To Harry		GSIS Member's Hour		23rd Sea Games Football				Auto Focus	
Nickelodeon	Ned's Classified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Classified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Ang Lahat Ng Ito'y Para Sa 'Yo				Haman				Nonoy Zuniga Concert				Dama				Ang Kapitbahay
RPN 9		Tara Lets	Global Window	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami						Money Talk	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shopping		Friends Again		Shepherds Voice		EZ Shop		JA1		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Solar Sports		2005 IBF Hong-Kong Badminton Singles					2nd PHIL-9 Ball					NBA Jam	GWS	NBA Game: Bobcats @ Golden State					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus				This Is The PGA Tour		BD Las Vegas	BD Versus Model Search	World Poker Tour ep 1 Bellagio				Ultimate Fighting Championship				Chrysler Championship Day 2			
Star Movies		Phenomenon (3:15 PM)					Life Or Something Like It (5:20 PM)			Total Recall (7:05 PM)				True Lies					Terminator 2: Judgement Day
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Wild Card		John Doe		Chronicles: News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters		Enterprise		Kumars At 42	Less Than Perfect Miss World Southern Europe Vote For Me
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr. Bean	Pinoy Big Brother		Gimme Gals (7:50 PM)	Jack & Bobby (8:40 PM)		Studio 23 Presents				

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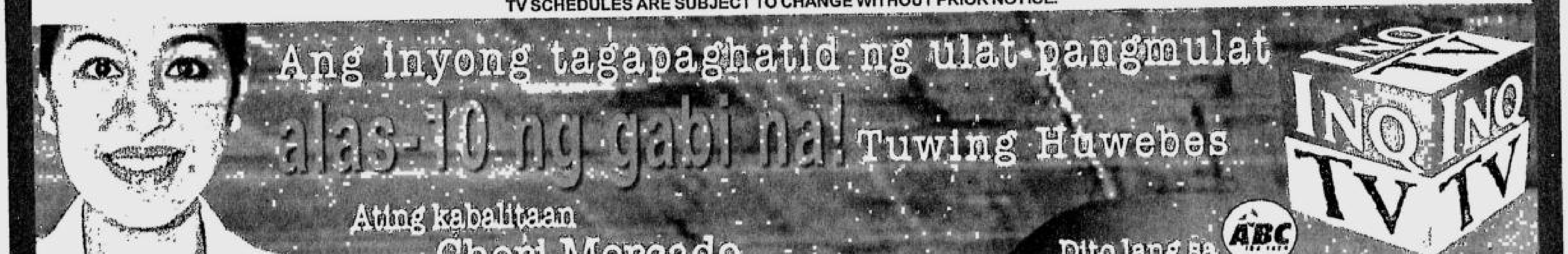
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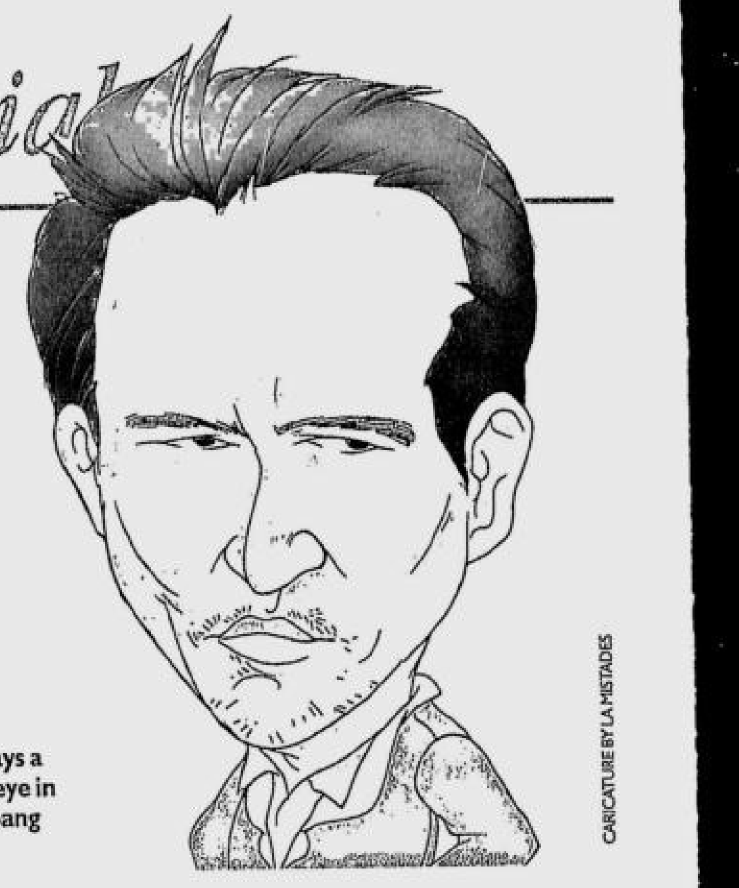
SATURDAY Special

Val Kilmer, other stars tackle challenging roles



KILMER. Plays a gay private eye in "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang."

CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME STARS PLAY IT SAFE and pretty much portray characters similar to the ones that have made them popular. But other actors love to take risks, and opt to play roles that stretch their thespic muscles and surprise their fans.

Take Felicity Huffman of "Desperate Housewives." In her new film, "Transamerica," she plays—a man! Not just that, the character is a man who wants to become a woman, and undergoes a series of sex change operations to achieve his (her?) dream.

Felicity's casting is unusual, because most sex change movies star actors who pretend to become women. In "Transamerica," however, Felicity, an actress, first has to play the role of a gay male before he transforms himself into a woman.

Nominations

The actress admits that the thespic challenge was quite a stretch for her. But all of her hard work has been worth it, because the advance word on "Transamerica" has it that she's a shoo-in for acting award nominations next year.

For his part, Val Kilmer goes to the other end of the gender spectrum and plays a gay private eye in "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang."

In the comedy thriller, Kilmer's character trains a petty crook posing as an actor who is brought to Los Angeles for an unlikely screen test (the flawed but basically decent thief is played by Robert Downey Jr.).

Kilmer and Downey's characters find themselves in the middle of a real-life murder mystery. Dead bodies surface and resurface, long-buried family secrets are exhumed, and what begins as a free trip to LA may become a one-way ticket to the city morgue!

Rock bottom

After portraying sunny-side-up leads in her past movies, Cameron Diaz plays it mean and even cruel in "In Her Shoes." Her character has burned every bridge with her family, and has hit rock bottom. She never takes responsibility for her actions, so she doesn't understand how she's arrived at such a bad place.

When her sister (Toni Collette) throws her out, Cameron's character finally confronts her true nature and her worst fears—and starts the slow climb back up to responsibility and normalcy.

Most child actors play carefree or moody characters interested in anything other than romantic love—but, in "Little Manhattan," 10-year-old Josh Hutcherson plays a boy who is completely caught in the throes of first love.

Summer camp

This isn't puppy love, but a sweet but raging feeling that consumes him totally. When the boy's girlfriend has to go to summer camp, he decides to take action to keep her from leaving—and nobody can stop him!

Finally, in "April Snow," Korean stars Bae Yong-Joon and Son Ye-Jin play characters who are thrust into a truly unique situation: They are two strangers who are brought together by their spouses' tragic car accident. They soon realize that his wife and her husband have been having a love affair.—Where do they go from *here?!*

GERONIMO (center) with Mica Torre (left) and Charice Pempengco.

Sarah inspires young talents

By Jocelyn Valle

ON HER WAY HOME FROM HER THIRD AUdition for a slot on "Star for a Night" four years ago, the then 13-year-old Sarah Geronimo was ready to throw in the towel.

"It was raining, and I was tired—but my father told me not to lose hope," recalls the eventual winner of the popular talent show. She has gone on to carve a name in the entertainment industry as a singer, actress and TV host.

At 17, Sarah now plays consoler and cheerleader to youngsters who try their luck in the singing contest that she hosts on Channel 2's "Little Big Star." "I give them words of encouragement. I tell them that it's not their only chance to become a singer," she shares.

Advice

It worked for Ronald Jaimeer, who lost the monthly finals to Charice Pempengco in the Big division last Saturday. The advice was lost on John Mark, who felt crushed by Mica Torre's victory in the Little division. During the commercial gap that immediately followed the announcement of results, Sarah ran to the younger boy's side and tried to soothe his hurt feelings.

Sarah admits to enjoying her current hosting gig, and it shows—on and off screen. She puts participants and guests at ease by making humorous ad-libs during light moments, shows sincerity when she discusses serious

SARAH/ A4-1

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Per DTI-NCR No. 2990 Series of 2005

ABC-5 fields reinvigorated program slate

By Nestor U. Torre

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THE BIGGEST TO be the best." That's what new ABC-5 owner Tonyboy Cojuangco said two years ago. His exhortation to his staffers was resoundingly validated recently, when ABC won as best TV station in the 2005 KBP Golden Dove Awards.

ABC's victory over bigger TV networks has heartened other "small" players to similarly aim for quality in their own niché markets.

True alternatives

To celebrate, ABC has unveiled a reinvigorated program slate of new entertainment, news, information and sports shows, for viewers looking for alternatives to formula programs and cut-and-dried formats.

The new lineup of shows includes the reality dance challenge, "Shall We Dance," hosted by Lucy Torres; a show biz game show, "Blind Item"; lessons learned from adversity in "S.O.S.—Stories of Survival," hosted by Martin Andanar.

TORRES. Hosts "Shall We Dance?"

"Wala Yan sa Lolo Ko" and "Totoo TV," hosted by Maverick and Ariel; Ali Sotto's talk show, "Ali"; and "Mumbai Thrillers" from Bollywood.

The channel's fresh infusion of foreign shows includes the new season of "The Apprentice—Donald Trump," "The Apprentice—Martha Stewart," "So You Think You Can Dance?," and the first local free TV screening of "Rockstar: INXS."

ABC-5 also telecasts the PBA games, and is covering the 23rd SEA Games until tomorrow. Finally, catch the 2005 Miss World beauty pageant on ABC this month.

Of these new shows, we've caught "Shall We Dance," and can share these notes on the program:

Its first group of celebrity dancers include Angelu de Leon, Jaycee Parker, Gardo Verzosa and Onyok Velasco. Initially, they felt and looked skittish as they executed fancy dance moves with their partners, all professional competition dancers.

Top prize

After a while, though, the celebrities got into the swing of things and looked determined to do their best to clinch the dance tilt's top prize.

One celebrity had to bow out each week, and Gardo was the first to leave. He was followed by Onyok, leaving Jaycee and Angelu to compete in the dance finals, scheduled early this month.

Angelu is on the chubby side, but her feisty dancing helps make up for that. For her part, Jaycee is trimmer and just as determined to bag the tilt's top prize. So, we can expect an all-out, dance-to-"death" contest when the show's first finals come up!

As for Lucy Torres, she's a truly svelte and glamorous host, but she still needs to relax as she reads her spiels, and to let loose in her exhibition dance numbers on the show.

Pinoy veggies

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

FRIENDS COME TO MY FARM to enjoy the tasty vegetarian meals we serve. Their favorites include fern (*pako*) salad, *gabi* with tofu *laing*, and vegetable *sinigang* without fish or meat.

A missionary friend invited a rich couple, who are used to dining in five-star restaurants abroad, to his place. The couple got very excited after tasting coconut steak and coconut heart cooked in coconut milk. They said it was the best meal they ever had!

Offering

Indeed, the best meals are inexpensive, natural, and cooked with love. My friends and I make a special art out of preparing healthy vegetarian food and offering the meal to the Lord before eating.

We recite a simple prayer: "Dear Lord, please accept this humble offering of food for your pleasure and enjoyment."

Then, we praise the Lord by saying, "Gopala Govinda Rama Madana-Mohana," which refers to the Supreme Person as protector, chief herdsman, giver of pleasure and all-attractive being.

This special act of offering gives inner joy, satisfaction and spiritual contentment.

Wonderful

Vegetarian food is especially wonderful to offer and prepare, because it uplifts us to goodness. I have friends who have raised their children as vegetarians, and it's exciting to learn about their favorite veggies: *saluyot*, *ampalaya* (bitter gourd), radish (*labanos*), *kamansi* and young *malunggay* pods (moringa).

I know of teenage foreigners who have acquired the taste for vegetable sinigang and vegetarian *kare-kare*.

Indeed, we have been blessed by God with abundant resources to eat healthy—sumptuously and inexpensively!

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Noteworthy projects for Viva talents

MONTAGE

THE VIVA ARTISTS AGENCY, HEADED BY Veronique del Rosario-Corpus, has lined up noteworthy projects for its contract stars: Anne Curtis returns to the big screen in a romantic film co-starring her and Luis Manzano.

"Search for A Star" winner Sarah Geronimo will release the DVD version of her live concert, "The Other Side." For her part, "Search for A Star" champion Rachelle Ann Go is coming out with her second album, "I Care." And Mark Bautista is riding high with his first top seller, "I Need You."

Carlo Aquino will co-star with Maui Taylor in a forthcoming movie. And Carlo and his band will record an album for Viva Records.

Other Viva talents include the Hot Babes and Hotmen. Call 687-6181, local 784.

Grand Kapuso Weekend

GMA-7 AND SUN CELLULAR TEAM. (Standing, from left) Randy Topacio, Riza Garduque, Gil Largoon, Kharen Limfueco and Star Jose. (Seated, from left) Fatima Ferrer, Grace Victorino, Jessica Blas and Finnie Bonifacio.

It was one SUN-ny GMA-7 Grand Kapuso Weekend in Davao recently, and Sun Cellular was there to add to the fun at the Future Development Site at SM City Davao.

Sun loot bags filled with premium items were given away as prizes during the live telecast of "SOP." The Sun booth was popular with fans due to its "meet and greet" sessions with GMA artists, and prizes like the Nokia 1600 and Plan 350.

Other hits were the "Serbisyong Totoo" Fair and the ETV Fair.

Mate-Trix at Dreamscape

Last Nov. 26 and 27, the fave teen girl band, Mate-Trix, performed at Robinsons Galleria's Dreamscape family amusement center. Mate-Trix members are Doreen Cardinal, Safel Subido and Lylyn Ungul.

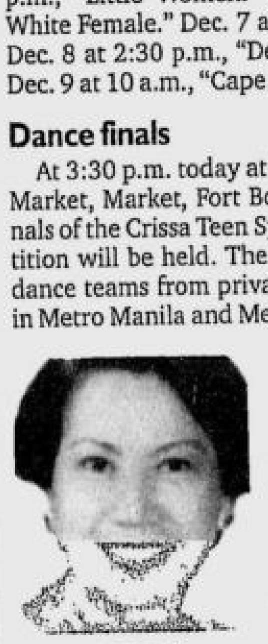
Dreamscape offers an exciting mix of rides, amusement facilities, delightful activities and shows for children and adults alike. Call 636-2911 or 631-7594.

Movies on Cinemax

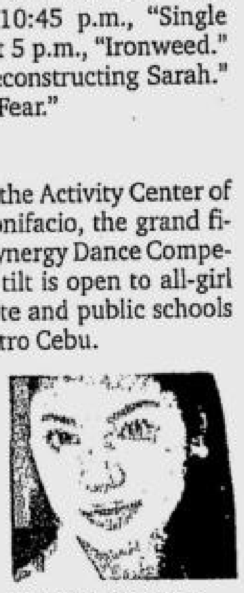
Dec. 3 at 4 p.m., "An Officer and A Gentleman." Dec. 4 at 11:15 a.m., "The Addams Family." 3:55 p.m., "Ghosts of Mississippi." 10:30 p.m., "Philadelphia." Dec. 5 at 2:15 a.m., "The Man Who Knew Too Much." Dec. 6 at 11:45 a.m., "All The President's Men." 3:45 p.m., "Little Women." 10:45 p.m., "Single White Female." Dec. 7 at 5 p.m., "Ironweed." Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m., "Deconstructing Sarah." Dec. 9 at 10 a.m., "Cape Fear."

Dance finals

At 3:30 p.m. today at the Activity Center of Market, Market, Fort Bonifacio, the grand finals of the Crissa Teen Synergy Dance Competition will be held. The tilt is open to all-girl dance teams from private and public schools in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.



DELA CRUZ. Hosts advocacy program on dzRH.



CURTIS. Co-stars with Luis Manzano in a romantic film.

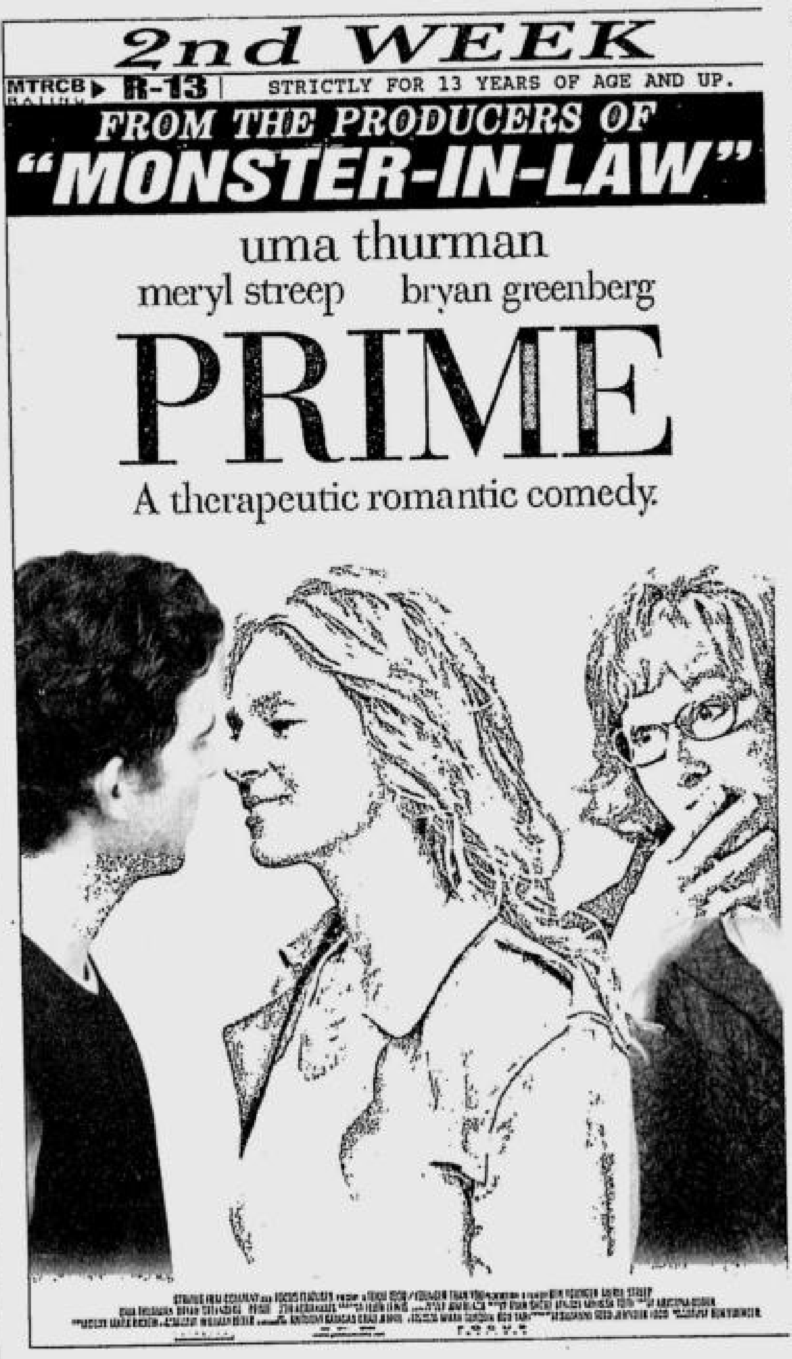
'Paskong Pasasalamat'

Erik Santos' concert, "Paskong Pasasalamat," will be held today at the Marikina River Banks. Guests include Ai Ai de las Alas, K and the Boxers, Kim Flores and Tara.

'Iskor Ko 'To!'

Filipino Christmas traditions ("Parol, belen, Noche Buena, Atbp.") will be discussed on "Iskor Ko 'To" on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 9 a.m. on dzRH. The weekly program is hosted by Bulacan Governor Josie dela Cruz.

Guests include Justice Agnes Devanadera, Fernando Santos, and Norma Lim from Policarpio, Mandaluyong City's popular "Christmas Street."



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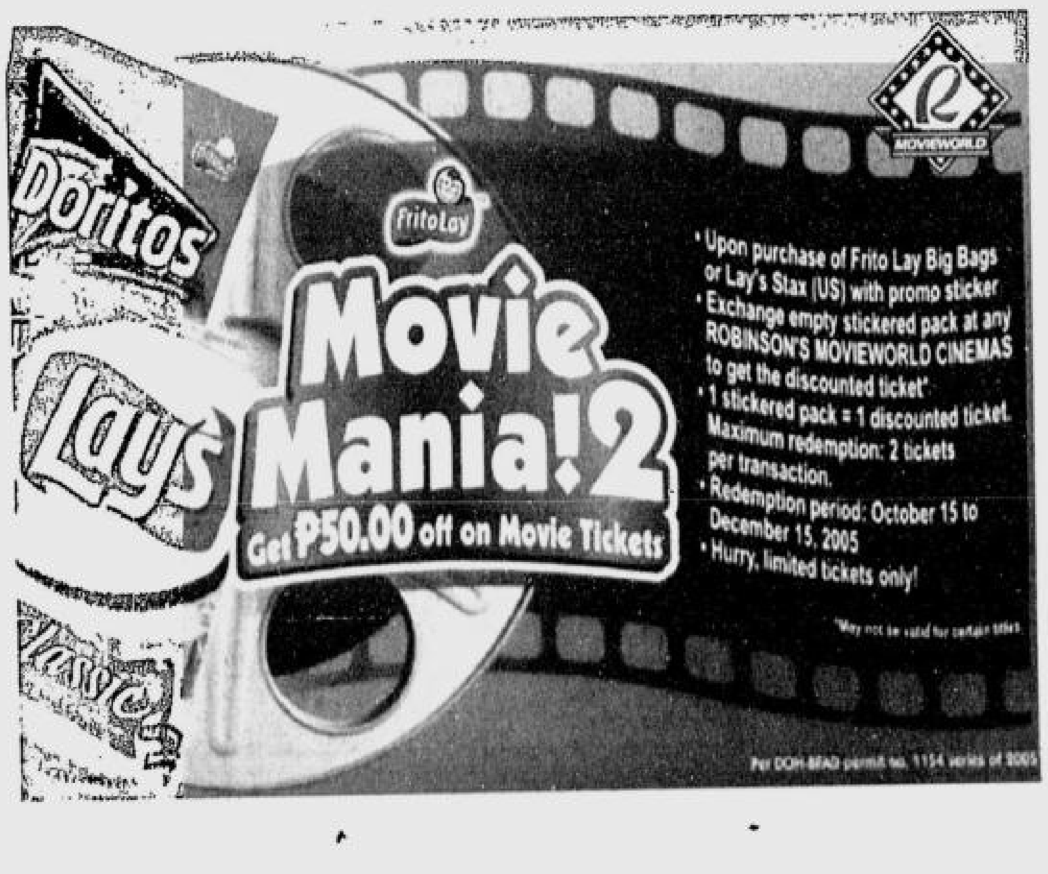

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Per DOH-BFAD permit no. 1154 series of 2005

Vegan recipes in cooking show

By Mona Gonzalez

JU.D LAO HAS BEEN PRO-moting Filipino ingredients and dishes for quiet awhile on the Dai station, which is aired on more than 40 countries overseas (and every Thursday and Friday afternoon on Channel 55 in the Philippines).

Now comes a new venture—a cooking show for vegan children. "We're taping 30 segments," shares Lao. "It complements my Vegan Children's Cookbook, which sold like hotcakes at the recent World Trade Book Fair."

Fruitcakes

Many Filipinos appreciate Ju.D's delicious fruitcakes, which are made with high-end, fresh ingredients. Ju.D made the world's first fruitcake cookie—the chewy chewkie—and the vegan ginger cookie.

Then, there are her fruitcakes—Classic, Ju.D Gold (a dark-and-light fruitcake), Ju.D Blue (with Blue Mountain coffee), the prune cake and her newest creation, the ginger cranberry cake. (Call 633-1188 or 633-0260).

Ju.D notes that children aren't fond of raw vegetables, "but they love my class because I teach them how to make salads on ice cream cones by adding alfalfa, lettuce, walnuts, raisins and cucumbers. They enjoy making them, too. I encourage parents to cook with their children, because the recipes are easy, and it's a nice way for families to bond."

Co-hosts

Ju.D's co-hosts on the show are a boy and a girl, aged eight and nine, respectively. In fact, the girl isn't a vegetarian. "It's always a challenge to find something that she'd like," Lao says, laughing. "Children don't lie—so when she likes the dish, I know *that's* a good compliment!"

Ju.D promotes Philippine ingredients and food products. For example, she made *kamote*-cue—and children loved it! "They were amazed when I told them that, in the Philippines, you can buy them at street corners."

Sarah inspires . . .

From page A4-1

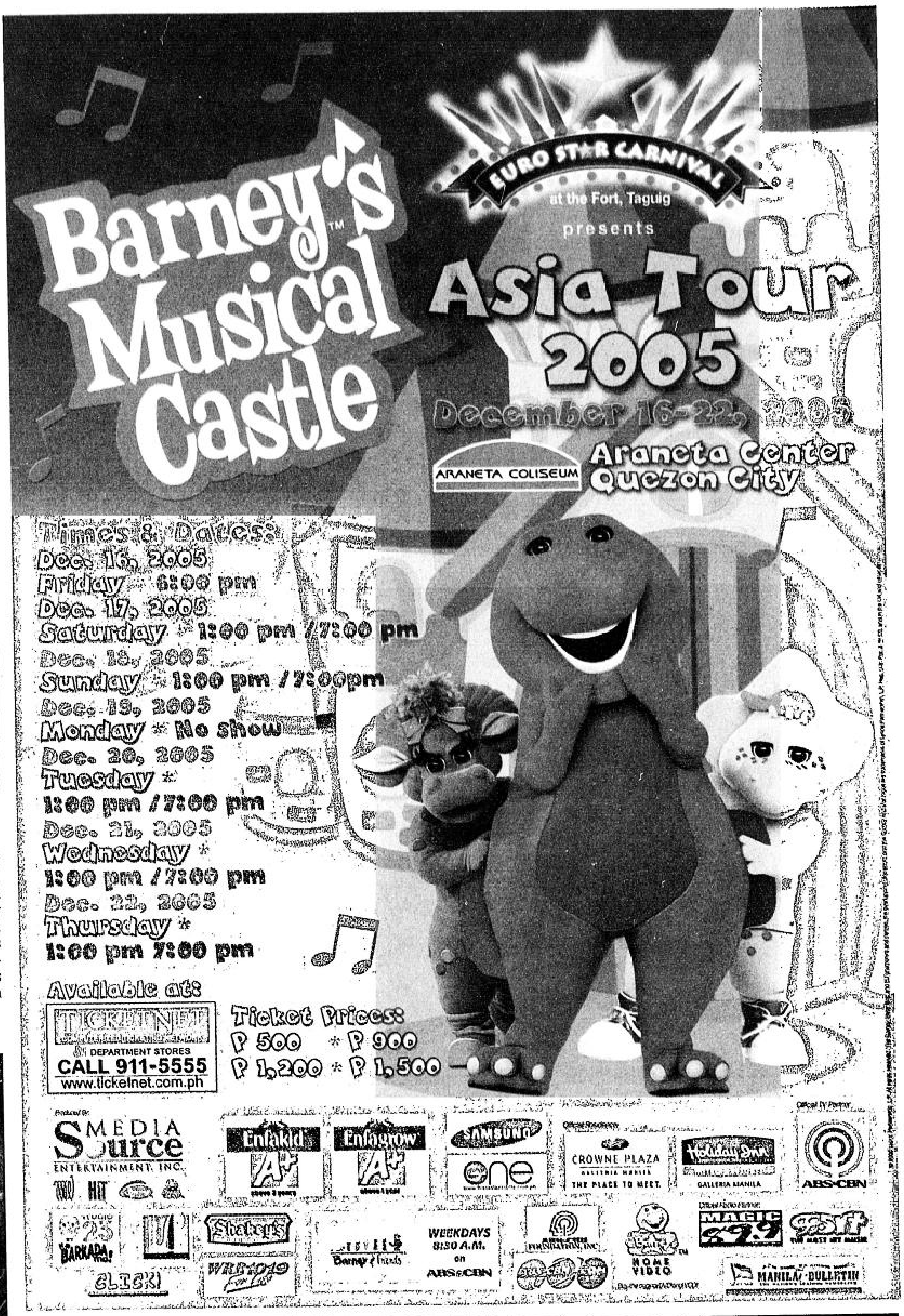
matters, and is able to laugh at her mistakes.

Intimidated

"It's more fun working with kids," she confides. "I can relate to them. I get intimidated when I interview people who are older. *Isip-bata din po kasi ako!*"

Sarah finds the new generation of singers more confident and more competitive than her batch.

Sarah says she's tickled pink when she gets complimented by young contestants. She adds, "I'm happy that what I do inspires them. If they ask for advice, I simply tell them to pray and always give their best." *That's* how Sarah found pop stardom!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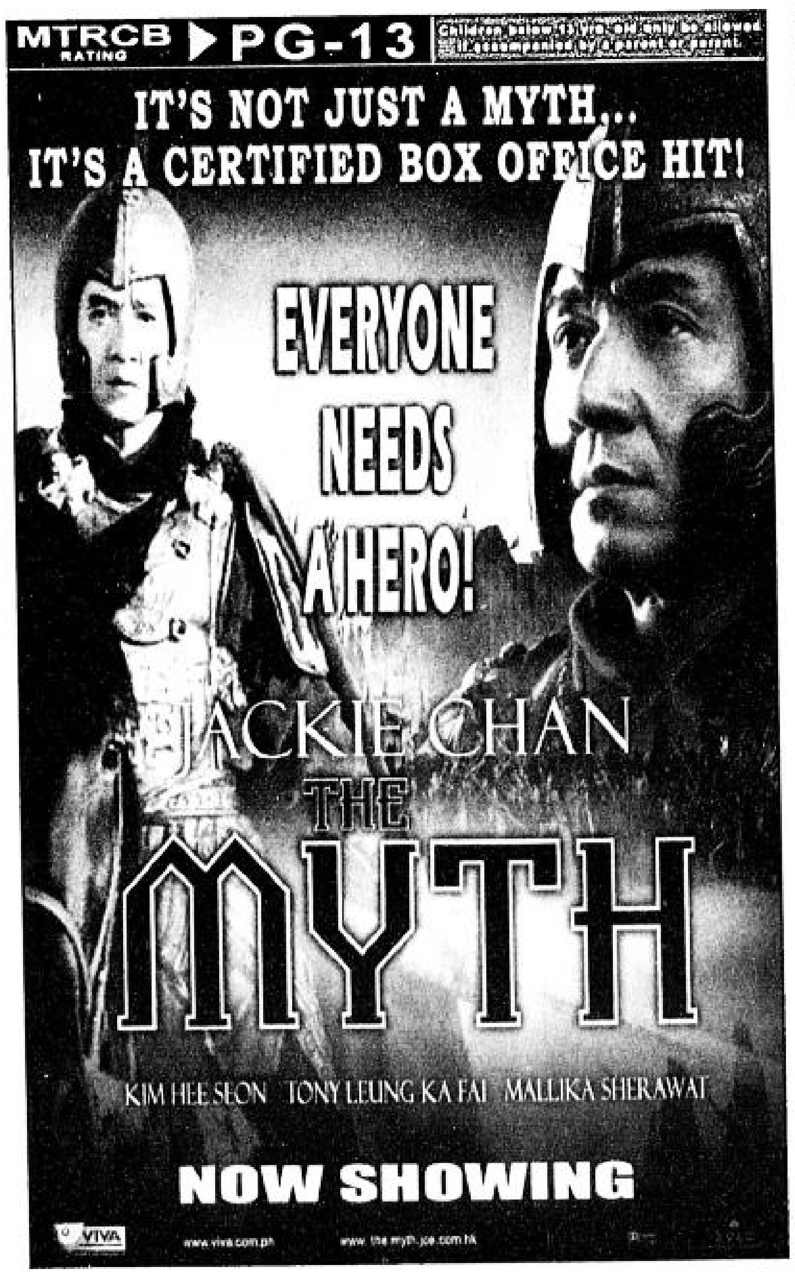
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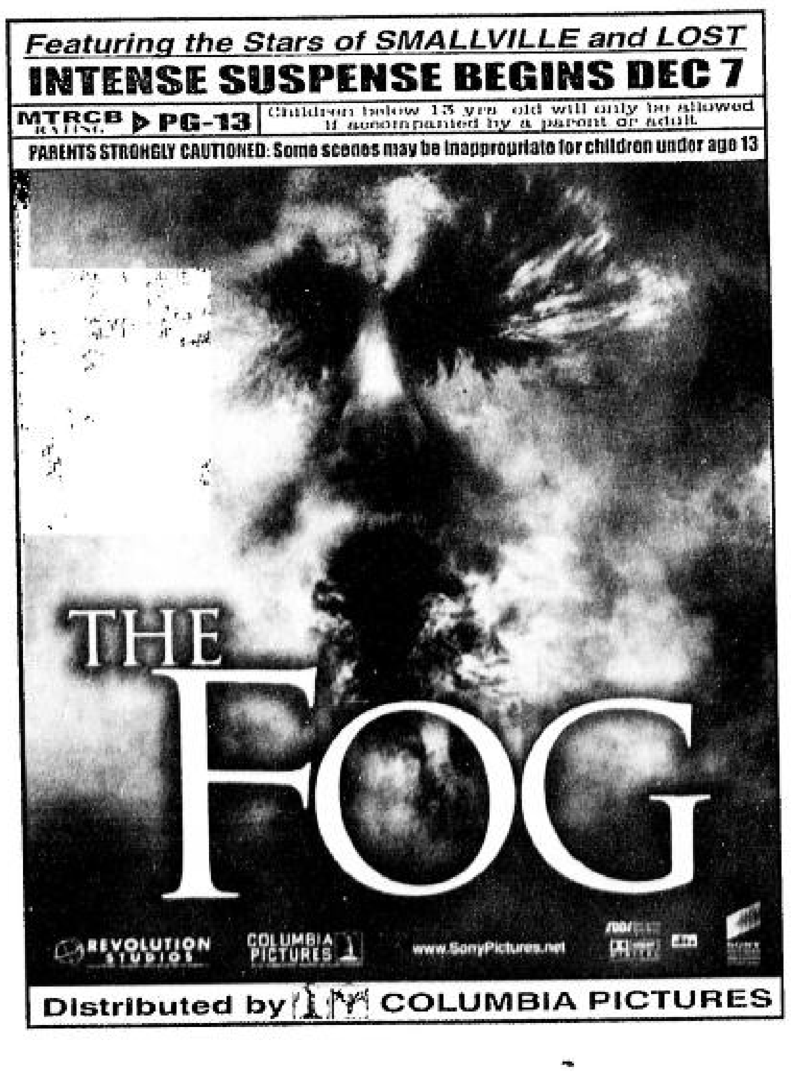
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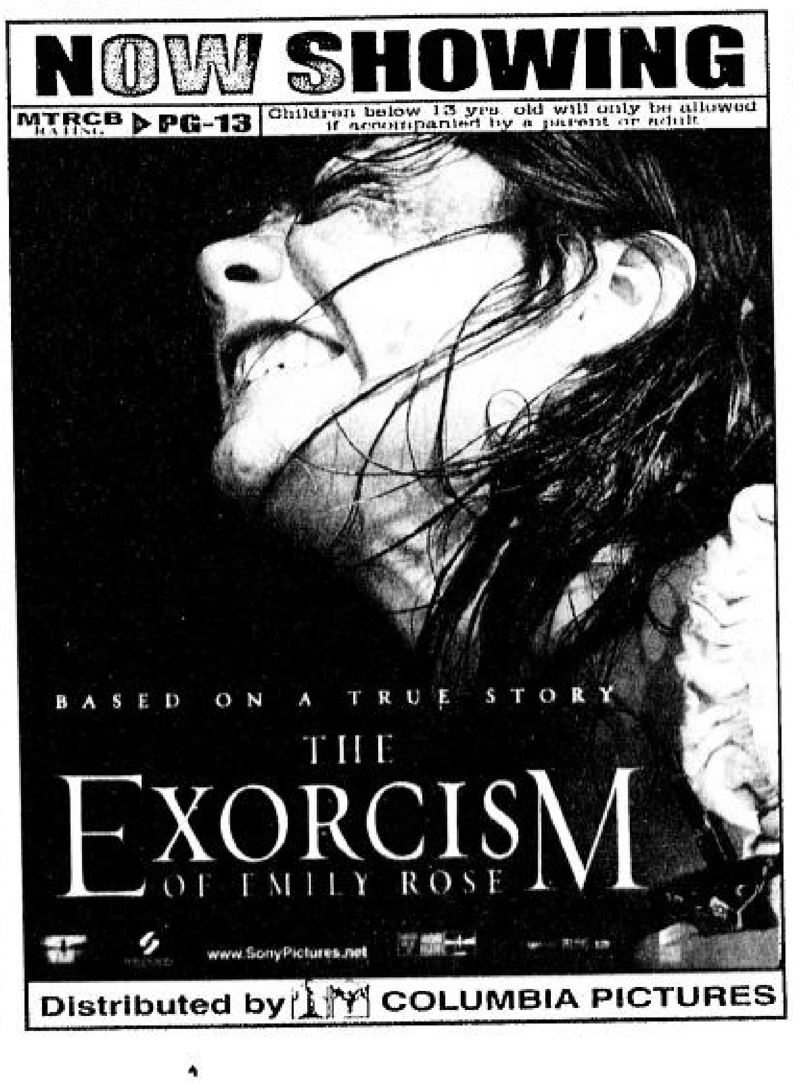
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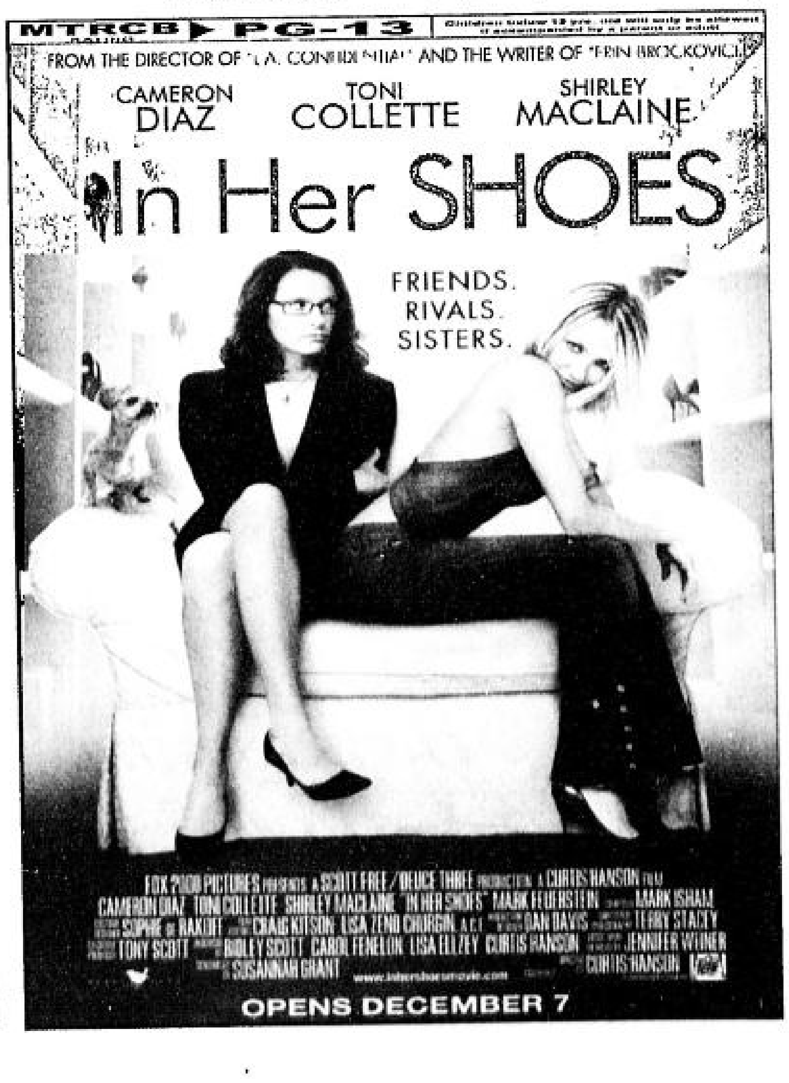
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OPENS DECEMBER 7

Cinemalaya films' success exceeds lofty expectations

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN WE HELPED CONCEPTUALIZE and judged the first Cinemalaya Alternative Film Festival starting last year, we hoped that it would result in the discovery of new filmmakers, make it easier for them to break into the movie scene, and invigorate the languishing Filipino film industry.

Now, many months later, we are delighted to see that some of the Cinemalaya productions have even exceeded those already lofty expectations. Good movies really end up having a life of their own!

These thoughts come to mind now because we've just heard that Cinemalaya Jury Prize winner, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," has been invited to compete in Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival early next year—the first Filipino movie to be so honored. *And* it's won the top plum in a "first films" competition in Singapore.

Distinctions

These distinctions comes on top of "Maximo's" other triumphs, which include best film at Montreal, best picture at the ImagiNative filmfest, and the top grade of A from the Cinema Evaluation Board. Kudos to director Auraeus Solito and screenwriter Michiko Yamamoto for these achievements.

LOPEZ. Plays title character in "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros."

Even better, "Maxi" is by no means the only exceptional work that Cinemalaya has produced—festival winner "Pepot Artista," "Big Time" and other entries deserve to be seen by more people, both here and abroad.

The problem is, they're all digital productions, we have only a few digital theaters, and it costs around a million pesos to convert digital to celluloid, for showing in mainstream theaters.

Digital theaters

Cash-strapped digital filmmakers find it tough to cough up the extra money needed to effect that transfer, so many more digital theaters should be set up right away, or the current digital "wave" could fail to crest.

We also wish that our digital filmmakers would seriously consider our alternative suggestion that they set up a new, school-based theater circuit. All they need is to pool their resources to purchase their own digital projector, so they can take their movies on a tour of colleges and universities, starting in Metro Manila:

Students find digital movies exciting because they're trailblazing and edgy, so schools are the natural screening venue for digital movies to flourish. And, if filmmakers and actors stay on after the screenings to engage in a dialogue with the student audience, the cause of genuine film education would be served in a truly significant way!

Storylines

Finally, the *second* Cinemalaya filmfest is currently revving up, with the submission of full-length screenplays of the 30-plus semi-finalists storylines chosen months ago by the festival's jurors.

The judges are currently reading the screenplays, and will select the 10 finalists early next year. The finalists will then be filmed with the help of a seed grant of P500,000 each from Tonyboy Cojuangco.

Let's hope that the 2006 Cinemalaya films match the stunning achievements of the first filmfest's superlative productions!

Giving credit where credit is due, the 2005 Cinemalaya gave the current digital trend its first, big push. We trust that next year's follow-up festival takes it to even greater heights!

Barbie Almalbis goes solo

By Jocelyn Valle

ALMALBIS. Freedom to experiment.

"IT'S ONE OF the best times for bands. People are more open to new sounds now," remarks Barbie Almalbis about the music scene's current state that's dominated by groups like Bamboo, Hale, Cueshe and Orange and Lemons.

After eight years and two bands (Hungry Young Poets and Barbie's Cradle), though, the 28-year-old singer-songwriter has decided to go solo. "It doesn't feel like I'm starting all over again. It's more about warming up with new musicians," she points out, adding that she has already recruited a new set of musicians to back her up during gigs.

More fire

Judging from her performance at the recent launch of Warner Music's "For Those About to Rock" bar tour at the Hard Rock Café, Barbie hasn't lost her touch. In fact, she has more fire—like she's singing her hits, "Firewoman," "Torpe" and "Just a Smile," for the first time!

Going solo has given Barbie more freedom to experiment. Her fans have to wait for sometime, though, to sample her new songs. She's currently compiling new materials for her solo album: "My music will basically be the same, but I've started taking different directions."

Barbie holds Kitchie Nadal in high regard. Contrary to rumors, the two female rockers are friends. "We go to the same church and we share the same manager. People try to pit us against each other, but seriously, her success has inspired me," Barbie adds.

Words of wisdom

Barbie's words of wisdom for new bands: "Be real and true to the music in your heart, despite the pressures that come along."

However, Barbie shares that she feels sad that some musicians rip off other artists' songs. She explains, "Yes, there are just a dozen notes and a few combinations you can do with them. But, you don't have to copy to come up with a good song. We just have to be more creative!"

FRANCIS and Maxene Magalona host "Fam Jam."

Amateur singing tilt for the whole family

By Noelani Torre

THERE'S A SURFEIT OF TALENT SEARCHES on local television today, but it seems there's always room for more. This latest sing-your-way-to-riches show is QTV's "Fam Jam." It's not just another singing competition, however, because the contestants on the show aren't just individuals, but entire families!

"Fam Jam" is also different from other shows because it doesn't make use of text or audience votes. Here, a panel of judges gets to decide which family will win, and this helps to ensure that the show won't turn into just another popularity contest.

The show has a familiar set-up: 12 competing families are divided in two batches. In one episode, six families of one batch compete with one another, and the one with the lower score is eliminated—and so on and so forth, until only two families are left to compete with each other in the grand finals.

Second batch

We were able to catch the second episode featuring the second batch, and it was quite enjoyable. The contestants were talented, and it was obvious that they really put a great deal of thought and effort into their performances.

They didn't just stand and sing, they also moved about the stage in carefully rehearsed movements—some even incorporated dance! It was pretty impressive for an amateur singing contest, and the judges seemed to think so, too!

The families performed the usual contest fare—love songs and ballads—though one family, the Villareals (who dubbed themselves the V5 Aces), did an upbeat hip-hop number!

The most unique group, however, was the Cruz family, who initially appeared to be a trio of sisters. During the interview, however, it turned out that Mandy Cruz was, in fact, Armando! Unfortunately for the Cruzers, they didn't perform well enough.

The hosts of "Fam Jam" are the father and daughter team of Francis and Maxene Magalona. Charming and amiable, they're icing on the cake of this refreshingly wholesome show.

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NOW SHOWING

Three must-see films for the soul

By Rito P. Asilo

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros"

D: Auraeus Solito
S: Nathan Lopez, JR Valentin

DON'T MISS AURAEUS SOLITO'S exhilarating coming-of-age tale about Maximo Oliveros (Nathan Lopez), a 12-year-old gay boy who lives in the slums with his father, Paco (Soliman Cruz), and brothers Boy (Neil Ryan Sese) and Bogs (Ping Medina).

After a fateful skirmish with neighborhood bullies, the pubescent protagonist strikes an unconventional friendship—and his first stab at puppy love—with dashing rookie cop, Victor Perez (JR Valentin), who comes to Maxi's rescue, and sweeps him off his feet—literally!

But, when the young boy's knight in shining armor dips his nose into the shady, felonious affairs of his father and brothers, Maxi finds himself torn between his loyalty to his family and devotion to Victor Indeed, all is fair in love and war—*if* familial obligation isn't part of the equation! What *is* a young gay boy to do?

While "Maximo" is not without flaws—it suffers from continuity gaffes (in one scene, after Victor is beaten up, he sashays from one frame to the next with his long and short pants), the occasional over-the-top, "Macbeth"-type acting of a couple of characters, and a dim and grainy transfer to the big screen (the movie's Cinemalaya screening at the CCP boasted of crisp visuals)—the film, nevertheless, is undoubtedly one of the year's best.

The production largely benefits from Michiko Yamamoto's highly original script (references to Alain Berliner's 1997 Golden Globe winner, "Ma Vie En Rose," rests solely in the two films' having a gay boy as their main protagonist, nothing else), tight editing, a soundtrack that doesn't overwhelm its narrative flow, and the sparkling performances of Lopez, Valentin, Cruz and Medina.

Yamamoto's script bristles with the humor and tragedy of everyday life: The rapturous exhilaration, numbing pain, and confusing humiliation of falling in love, our daily struggle to choose between right and wrong, and the sweet and endearing subtleties that characterize family life.

Indeed, when everything in our world seems to fall apart, we're assured of our family's support to help ease the hurt. The calming presence of our loved ones, who accept us despite our weaknesses, oddities and idiosyncrasies, reassures us that it's alright to cry as we struggle to pick up the pieces. *Then*, we move on.

"Merry Christmas" (Joyeux Noel)

D: Christian Carion
S: Guillaume Canet, Benno Furmann, Diane Kruger

In France's entry to next year's Oscar derby, Christian Carion delivers a film that ranks up there with Frank Capra's 1946 holiday classic, "It's a Wonderful Life," among the best feel-good Christmas-themed movies ever made. Carion's inspiring war drama juxtaposes the horrors of war with the life-affirming spirit of the Christmas season.

While Capra's masterpiece was initially shunned and slammed by moviegoers for its unapologetically schmaltzy premise before it became an annual holiday staple, "Joyeux Noel" possesses one distinct advantage over Capra's film:

It is based on a true story, about an incident on Christmas eve in 1914 during World War I, when warring factions from Germany, France and Scotland momentarily set aside their opposing political ideologies after five months of bloodbath, hunger and lice.

They laid down their arms in the blood-soaked, frozen trenches to sing Christmas carols, bury their dead, play football, share cups of champagne and coffee, and hear mass together!

Carion's cinematic triumph is further boosted by strong storytelling, fine production values and moving performances paced by the charismatic Guillaume Canet (as French soldier, Lt. Audebert), Diane Kruger, Gary Lewis and Benno Furmann.

Carion, like most French film auteurs, cooks up a dramatic brew without capitalizing on his material's overtly mawkish narrative elements. That little-known incident in 1914 also demonstrates the power of music beyond its ability to entertain.

Yes, miracles don't only happen in works of fiction. We may speak different languages or pray to different gods; but the need for peace, love and universal harmony transcends history and politics.

Moreover, the spirit of the movie hits a resonant albeit bittersweet note today, as man continues to engage in needless wars.

"Joyeux Noel" is a sight to behold as it dramatizes man's pugnacity and triumph in the face of the enemy: Himself.

CANET. Delivers moving performance in Christian Carion's inspiring war drama.

"Just Like Heaven"

D: Mark Waters
S: Reese Witherspoon, Mark Ruffalo

Hopeless romantics have something to cheer about in Mark Waters' heartwarming rom-com about Elizabeth Masterson (Witherspoon), a workaholic physician whose earth-bound spirit enlists the help of lonely landscape architect, David Abbot (Mark Ruffalo), her apartment's new tenant, who's still grieving over the death of his wife, to trace her identity.

In fact, her body lies in a comatose state in the hospital. But, three months after the accident, Liz' family is confronted with the issue of whether to pull the plug of her life-support machine or not. Only David can see her—and time is running out! To make matters more complicated, they begin to fall for each other!

With Witherspoon and Ruffalo's unusual aptitude for light comedy, drama and romance, the two stars don't disappoint. They work their considerable charms to elevate material that interweaves storylines from numerous romantic blockbusters. Consequently, the movie draws its strength from a witty script, tight editing and Waters' insightful direction.

Debate heats up over National Artist awards

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR RECENT ARTICLE ON THE National Artist awards has elicited a number of reactions, both positive and negative. Some art buffs agree with us that high standards should be maintained, but others think that the arts should cease being so "inaccessible" to most people, and that popularity is a sign that the artist is "communicating" with the larger audience out there.

Frankly, we really aren't all that concerned about how the debate will resolve itself—the important thing is that we do engage in it, so that controversial issues are clarified, instead of being swept under the rug, as has traditionally been the practice.

Panel of peers

Take the issue of "presidential prerogative," whereby Malacañang feels that it has the option to override the National Artist awards' long and exhaustive selection, deliberation and votation process engaged in by a panel of peers, and add an extra name to the list of awardees, through sheer executive fiat.

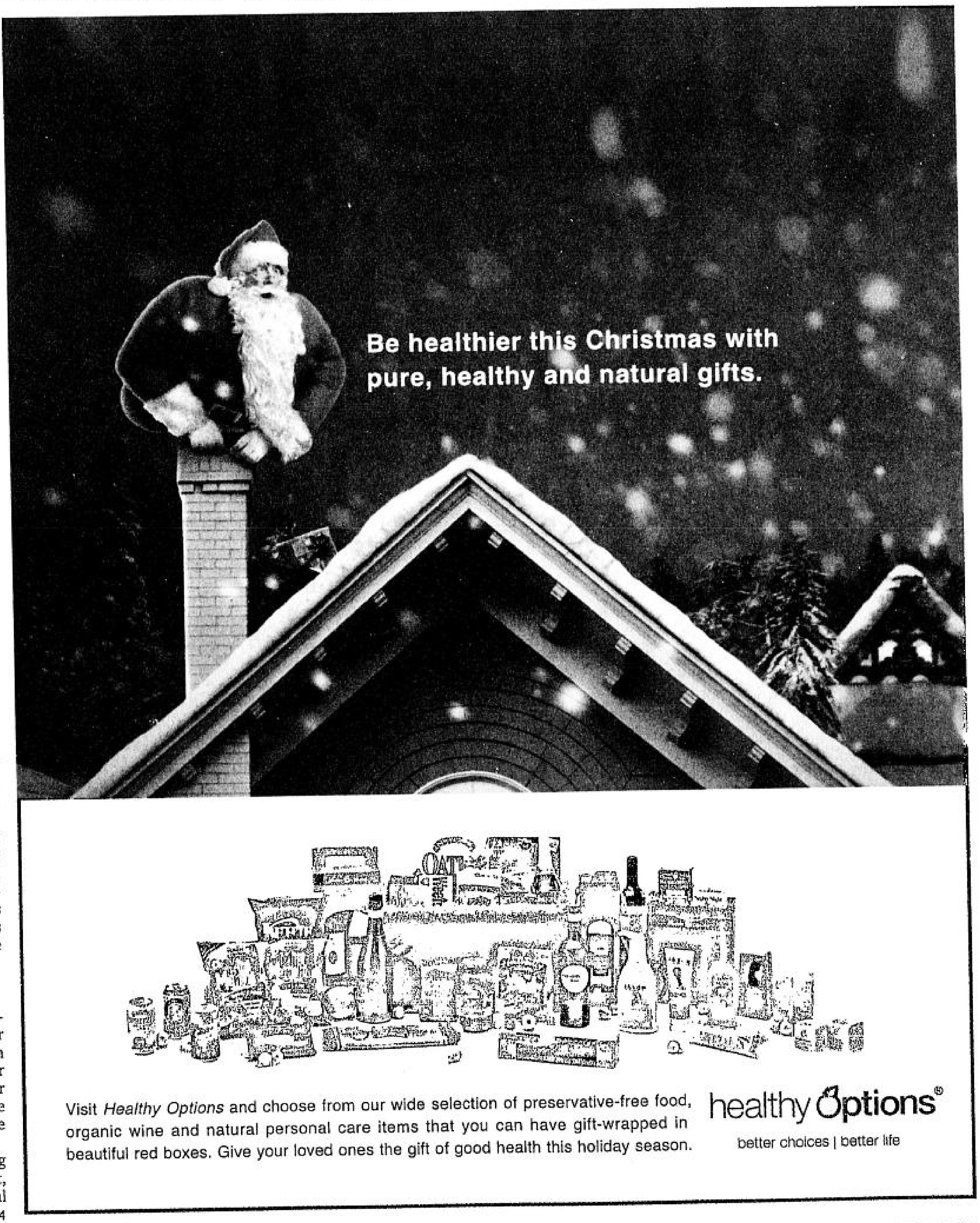
Legally, some experts feel that "presidential prerogative" may be defensible. On point of artistry, however, it generally rankles, because most presidential choices suffer in comparison to awardees who have gone through the awards' entire selection process.

Controversy

Is there a way out of this controversy? A suggestion is for Malacañang to nominate its own bets early in the process, rather than at the very end of it, and for those bets to be considered by the awards' panel of peers just like everybody else.

We hope that Malacañang takes this seriously into account, because when the "presidential

DEBATE/ A5-4



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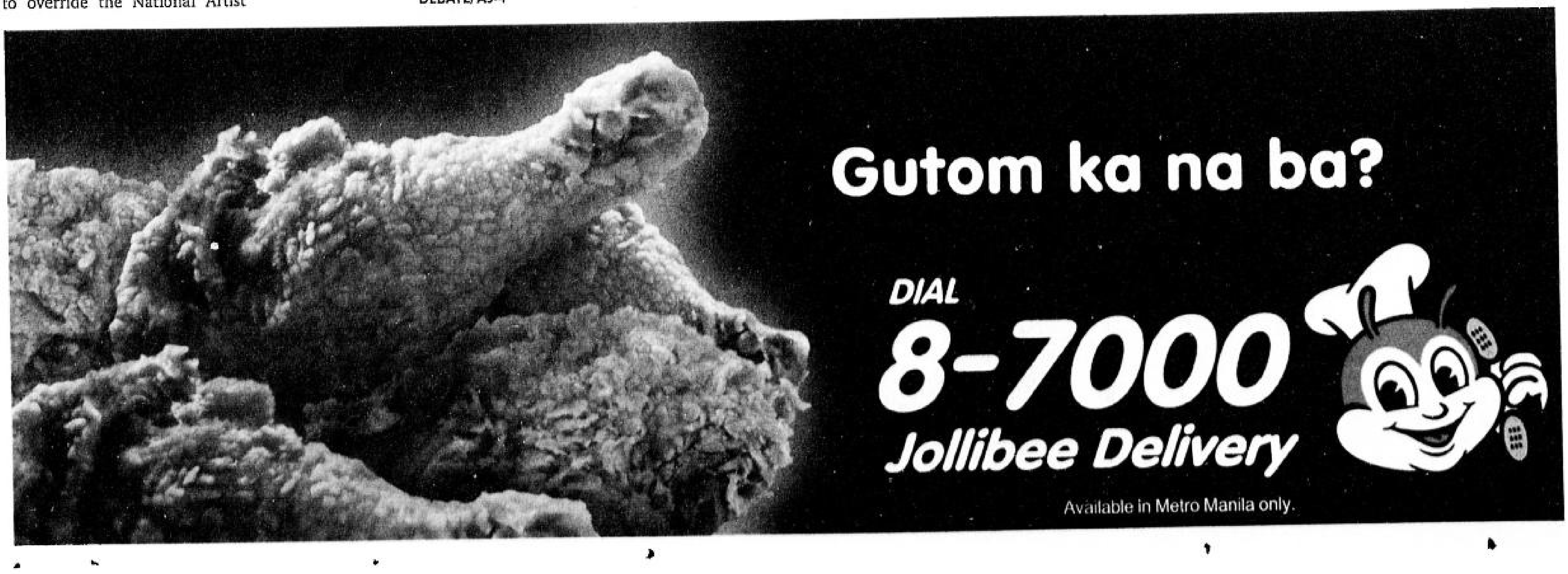


AIR SUPPLY. The passage of time has made the duo's tunes timeless.

Nostalgia over romance in love song collection

By Noelani Torre

WARNER AND UNIVERSAL MUSIC'S LATEST love song compilation, "Always," opens with the really sappy "If." Things proceed predictably from there, with Chicago's "You're the Inspiration" and Air Supply's "Making Love Out of Nothing at All" following the Bread classic—also sappy stuff, but then, this album *is* an anthology of love songs.

The album, in fact, hails itself as "the finest collection of timeless love songs." It's not, really, but all 32 songs in this two-disc collection are popular classics. In fact, it's probably a certainty that all of them are included in any self-respecting videoke's list of songs—and that's as accurate a gauge of timelessness as anything!

Playlist

If you'll take a look at the playlist, you'll notice that the featured material springs from the fertile light-rock ballad era of the '70s and '80s. Slip these discs into your CD player, and you'll find yourself transported back to the days when the Bangles' "Eternal Flame" was incessantly played on the radio, at a time when people still knew that the name of the singer who sang "I've Never Been To Me" was Charlene.

Most of the artists featured in the album are no longer active, such as the group, Atlantic Starr, who provides us with the title track, "Always."

Spandau Ballet ("True") is likewise no longer active, as are England Dan & John Ford Coley ("I'd Really Love to See You Tonight") and one-hit wonder, Samantha Sang ("Emotion").

Some are still very much around, however, like Elton John ("Candle in the Wind"), Phil Collins ("Against All Odds"), The Commodores ("Three Times a Lady") and Cat Stevens ("Morning Has Broken").

Backgrounder

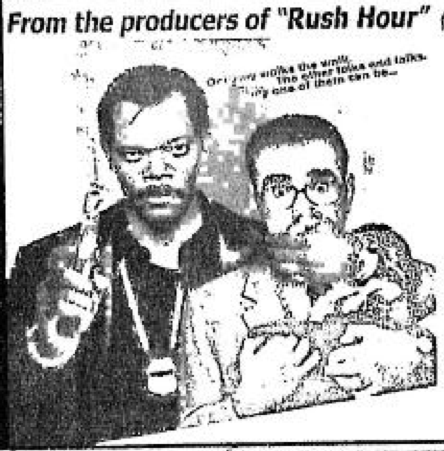
Despite the fact that these are love songs, it's not the kind of music we'd recommend as a backgrounder for, well, getting it on. They're more likely to inspire flights of nostalgia rather than romantic feelings.

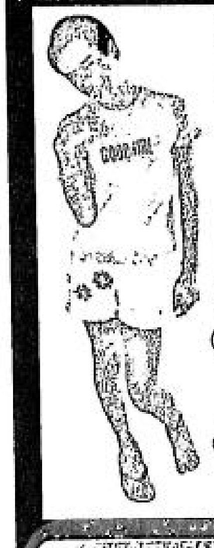
Strictly speaking, some of the songs aren't *really* love songs—not in the traditional way, at least. "True" is introspective rambling, Michael Jackson's "Ben" is about a more platonic (we hope) love for a mouse, Don McLean's "Vincent" is about an iconic painter, and "Morning Has Broken" is a celebration of a new day.

The same era

Not that it matters, really, since these songs blend in, anyway, having sprung from roughly the same era.

All in all, it's enjoyable to listen to "Always," despite its frequent forays into schmaltzy territory. Indeed, the passage of enough time can make even Air Supply sound timeless.





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BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
The MAN

PREMIERE
Megamall THE FOG Dec. 5 Cinema 1
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BE THE FIRST TO WATCH
Ang Pagdadalaga Ni Maximo Oliveros · Chicken Little · Hari Ng Sablay · Just Like Heaven · Merry Christmas

GUARANTEED SEATS
THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 CHICKEN LITTLE 12:30FS/01:00MF/03:00/05:00/7:00/08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:25END
2 THE MAN 12:30FS/01:00MF/03:00/05:00/07:00/08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:25END
MEGAMALL
4 THE MYTH 11:15FS/11:40FS/02:10/04:40/07:10/09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 CINEMA 1 RESERVED
2 SHERYN REGIS IN CONCERT
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 10:20FS/10:30MF/01:15/04:00/6:45/09:25LFS/09:30LMF/12:00END
MANILA
6 THE MYTH 10:30FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/5:20/7:30/09:30LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE MYTH
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 THE MAN
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 *TRUMPETS
11 MERRY CHRISTMAS
12 PRIME

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 MERRY CHRISTMAS
3 PRIME
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 CHICKEN LITTLE
9 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
10 APRIL SNOW
11 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
12 THE MAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 THE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 HARI NG SABLAY
6 PRIME
7 THE MYTH
8 THE MAN
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 THE MAN
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 PRIME

SM CITY MANILA
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 THE MYTH
7 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
8 PRIME
9 HARI NG SABLAY
10 MERRY CHRISTMAS
11 FLIGHTPLAN
12 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 THE MAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MAN
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
6 HARI NG SABLAY

SM VALENZUELA · NOW OPEN
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MAN
3 APRIL SNOW
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

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Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros
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BEST PICTURE imagineNATIVE Film Festival Toronto

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 CRY WOLF
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BACOOR
1 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 THE MAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 HARI NG SABLAY

SM MOLINO · NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 RESERVED
2 SHERYL REGIS IN CONCERT
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 THE MYTH
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM CITY ILOILO
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 RESERVED
3 THE MYTH
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 APRIL SNOW
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 WAITING

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
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CINEMA 1 PRIME (R13) 11:20, 2:05 EXORCISM (PG13) 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 11:00, 2:20, 5:40, 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CHICKEN LITTLE GP 11:45, 1:40, 3:35, 5:30, 7:25, 9:20
CINEMA 4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN - PG13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20
CINEMA 5 CHICKEN LITTLE GP - 10:45, 12:40, 2:35, 4:30, 6:25, 8:20, 10:15
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
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1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00 GP
2 CHICKEN LITTLE 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GP
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00 GP
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE MYTH PG13 - 1:45,4:15 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13 6:45,9:20	CHICKEN LITTLE GP 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00
CHICKEN LITTLE GP 1:00,3:00,5:00 PRIME R13 7:10,9:30	PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS PG13 12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20,9:30	JUST LIKE HEAVEN GP 1;35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15

SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 1440-41.

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P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
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HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:40 / 3:40 / 6:40 / 9:40
JUST LIKE HEAVEN 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
MERRY CHRISTMAS 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
HARI NG SABLAY 12:35 / 3:45 / 4:55 / 7:05 / 9:15
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA CHICKEN LITTLE 1:10 / 6:10 HARRY POTTER 3:00 / 9:00
CHICKEN LITTLE 11:30 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 8:55
THE MYTH 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:10 / 3:50 / 6:30 / 9:20
PRIME 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 12:00 R4 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
❷ HARI NG SABLAY 12:10 R3 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10
❸ CHICKEN LITTLE 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:30
❹ ...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:05 R3/ 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
❺ THE MYTH 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
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URCC - THE ART OF WAR December 10, Saturday 8:00 pm

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AYALA
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December 2 to 4 & 9 to 11 2005, GB 3 Park - 8PM
Christmas Fireworks Display
December 2 to 4 & 9 to 11 2005, GB 3 Park - 9PM

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REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
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AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 HARI NG SABLAY	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS	4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN		
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 CHICKEN LITTLE	2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS			
		4 FLIGHTPLAN	5 THE MYTH	6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	7 PRIME		
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN				
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS				
		3 PRIME GUARANTEED SEATS	4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CHICKEN LITTLE GUARANTEED SEATS			
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 CHICKEN LITTLE				
		3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	4 PRIME	5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE			
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 CHICKEN LITTLE	3 HARI NG SABLAY	4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS		

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Val Kilmer
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2. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
3. Chicken Little
4. Hari ng Sablay
5. Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros

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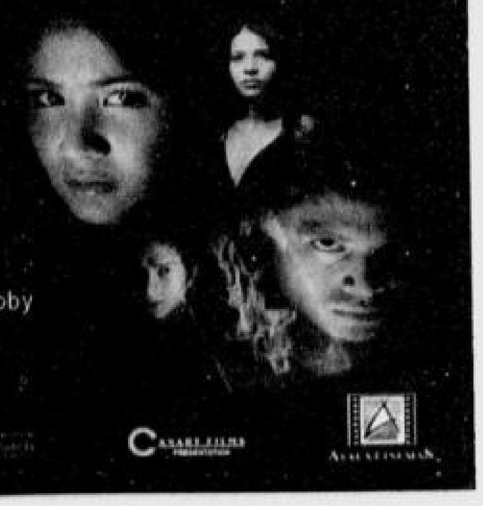

December 3 (Saturday) 5:00 PM, 5th Flr. Market! Market! Cinema Lobby

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 HARRY POTTER 4 • THX
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

2 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:00 2.00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 PRIME
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:30 3:40 6:50 10.00

5 HARI NG SABLAY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 FLIGHTPLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 THE MYTH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

10 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE 12:00 3:20 6:40 10:00

2 PRIME
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 HARI NG SABLAY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 THE MYTH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:00 2.00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 PRIME
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:10 3:20 6:30 9:40

3 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00

4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
11:50 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

5 THE MYTH
1:10 3:50 6:30 9:10

6 APRIL SNOW
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

8 HARI NG SABLAY
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARI NG SABLAY
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE

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Cinema 2	THE MYTH	Cinema 5	JUST LIKE HEAVEN
Cinema 3	CHICKEN LITTLE	Cinema 6	THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
4 THE MYTH
5 HARI NG SABLAY

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARI NG SABLAY

DASMARINAS (046) 852-2126 (046) 416-4332

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 THE MYTH

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE MYTH
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE

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1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
4 THE MYTH
5 HARI NG SABLAY

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 CRY_WOLF
6 THE MYTH

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 CRY_WOLF
3 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
4 THE MYTH
5 FOUR BROTHERS
6 DOMINO

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1 HARI NG SABLAY
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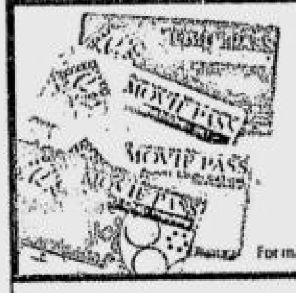

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Vintage Filipino films on TV

By Nestor U. Torre

FILM BUFFS ASK US: WHERE CAN WE watch the vintage films of yesteryears? Well, most of them are no longer extant, no thanks to our cavalier neglect of our cinematic patrimony. But, some old movies that have survived the onus of time and lack of vision can be viewed—on television.

For instance, ABS-CBN's Cinema One *Pinoy* movie channel has acquired some choice movies produced by LVN Pictures. Some of the titles have been an important part of our own screen education, so we urge you to look out for them:

SOLIS. Starred in "Malvarosa" and "Kundiman ng Lahi."

Test of time

"Biyaya ng Lupa" is Manuel Silos' masterwork, a truly inspired and affecting film about a farming family (Rosa Rosal and Tony Santos Sr. play the parents) that weathers all sorts of tragic events. The movie has stood the test of time, and is in some film buffs' list of the 10 best Filipino movies ever made.

Similarly exceptional is Lamberto V. Avellana's "Kundiman ng Lahi," starring Charito Solis. The film is significant because it shows what happens when a rural community makes the transition to "modern" manufacturing—and its values. Avellana is also well-represented by such other movies as "Anak Dalita" and "Badjao."

For his part, Mike de Leon comes on strong with "Kung Mangarap Ka't Magising" and "Kakabakaba Ka Ba?" And Gregorio V. Fernandez (Rudy's father, an excellent director in his own right) has "Malvarosa," in which Charito Solis plays the only girl in the family, constantly at the service of her male siblings.

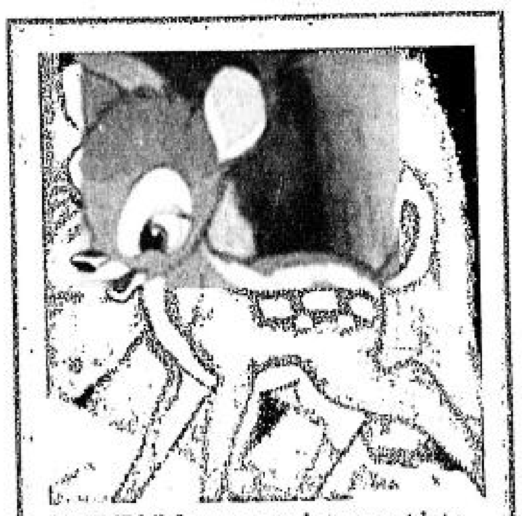
Other worthy titles are "Sierra Madre," "Ibong Adarna," "Anak ni Waray," "Kambal Tuko," "Mutya ng Pasig," "Pista sa Nayon," "Austerity Love," "Galawgaw," "Niña Bonita," "Haring Cobra," "Mahiwagang Gitara," "Talusaling" and "Waray-Waray."

Meanwhile, Sampaguita Pictures is very well represented in the film program of QTV 11. We've caught quite a number of delightful and moving SPI productions on Channel 11, and some of them have also stood the test of time.

Past glories

Sampaguita is in a good position to remind today's viewers about the past glories of the Filipino film industry, because the studio's film archives have managed to preserve around one-fourth of Sampaguita's total output of some 800 productions.

We trust that the current showing of local film classics on ABS-CBN and QTV 11 will make Filipino film buffs more appreciative of the importance of preserving our cinematic patrimony, for future generations of viewers to enjoy, learn from, and be proud about.



"BAMBI." A young soul steps out into the bigger world.

Love those Hollywood animals!

By Behn Cervantes

THE FIRST HOLLYWOOD ANIMAL star I got to know about was Cheetah, the frisky and sometimes mischievous chimpanzee who co-starred with all Tarzans, including Olympic swimming legend Johnny Weissmuller, the Lord of the Jungle during my time.

Tarzan and Cheetah bonded and became close jungle buddies. Even Jane (Maureen O'Sullivan) and Boy (Johnny Sheffeld) treated him as part of the family.

Heroic

Cheetah sometimes caused havoc while Jane cooed with Tarzan in their arboreal nest. How else does a monkey behave, right? Of course, Cheetah did monkey-see and monkey-do. However, he could also be downright heroic, saving Tarzan and his family from great peril!

When William Powell and Myrna Loy starred in the highly-popular "Thin Man" series, they would sometimes share scenes with a cute puppy named Asta.

In that sophisticated series, the urbane detective would solve crimes not only with the help of wise-cracking Nora Charles (Loy), but also with "accidental" tips from Asta's canine reactions.

Popular

In popular man-dog movies like "Rin Tin Tin" and "Lassie," both title characters were heroic and in full control of any situation. All Lassie needed was the constant love and guidance of his young master. "Rin Tin Tin" was made of sturdier stuff, and partnered with male adults in more macho adventures.

America's frontier history made horses important components of cowboy films. Roy Rogers had his Trigger, while the masked savior, Lone Ranger, had Silver.

Then, there was the race horse so lovingly raised by Mickey Rooney and the already gloriously beautiful 12-year-old Elizabeth Taylor in "National Velvet."

Talking mule

In the early '50s, Universal International decided to create a lovable talking mule, Francis (voiced by Jim Backus). He was sometimes ornery and slow-witted, to the consternation of his master, portrayed by hoofer Donald O'Connor.

However lovable these mules, chimps, horses and dogs were, it was a fragile deer, albeit in cartoon form, that left the biggest imprint on my young soul.

As a young boy about to step out into the bigger world myself, I understood Bambi's confusion with adult realities and sensibilities. From Bambi to Behn may appear to be quite a stretch—but, there you have it!

Debate heats up . . .

From page A5-1

prerogative" is exercised, it delights only the "appended" awardee, but turns off many artists who feel that the awards process has been shunted aside and rendered moot.

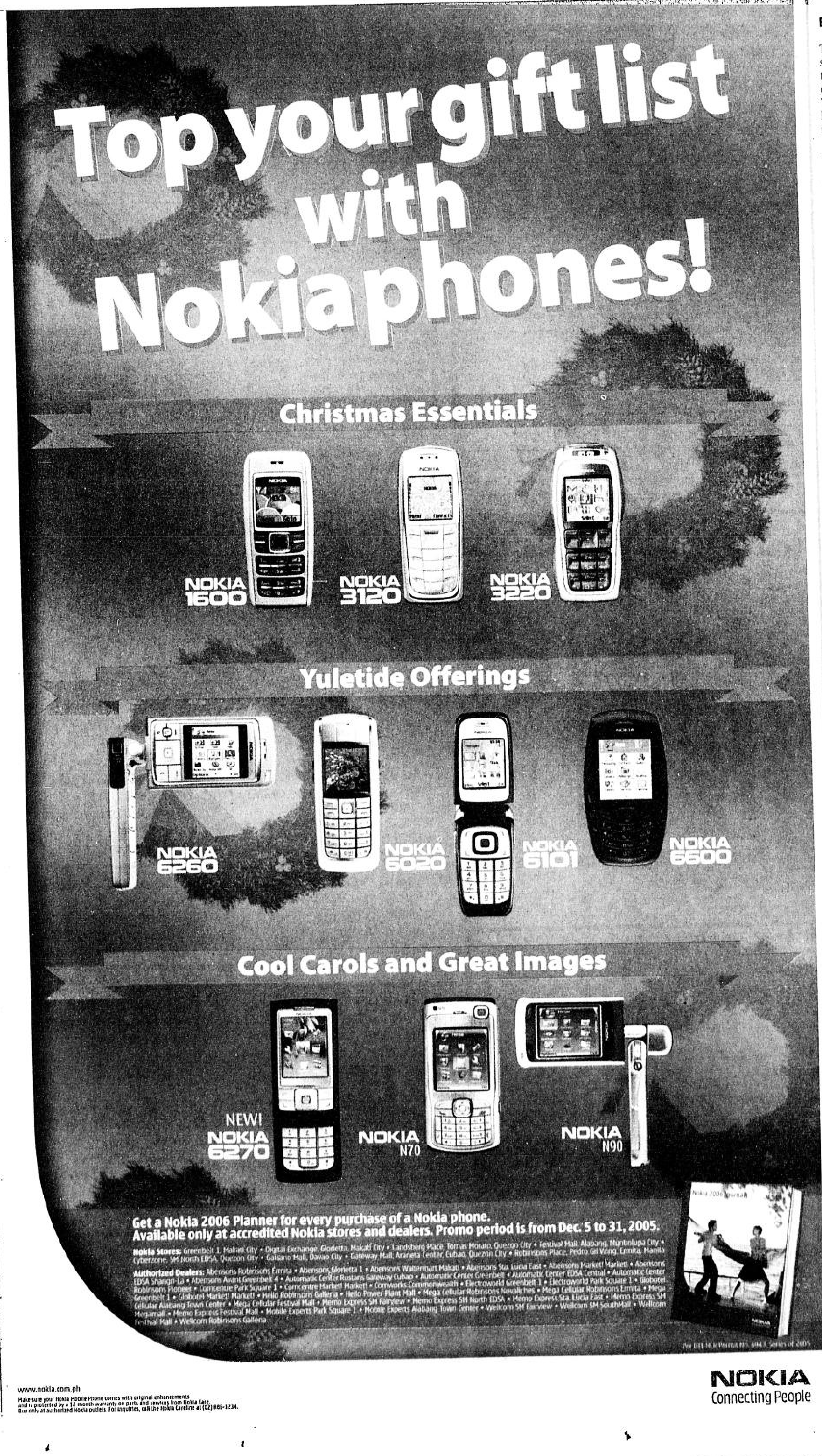
Other readers who have reacted to our article score us for being "against" younger artists getting the award. We don't know what article they've read, but we are by no means against younger artists *per se*. In fact, we can think of two relatively young artists who deserve to win the award now, because they have already come up with formidable bodies of work that some much older artists could not hope to match.

An even more controversial issue is the suggestion of some senior artists that the National Artist award should go only to living artists. They cite the difficulty of securing corroboration of some departed artists' achievements, especially in the field of film, since only a few really old movies have survived the onus of time, decay and neglect.

Exceptional work

Our view is that dead artists should not be penalized for conditions beyond their power to prevent, and they should still be honored for their exceptional work.

Corroboration can be secured in the recollections of senior artists, published reviews, critics' evaluations, etc. The important thing is to honor really outstanding artistic achievement, to set high standards for younger artists to emulate.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WHAT'S INSIDE

SMC to consolidate food business /B2

DOE swept with offers for gas, coal production /B2

BUSINESS

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

SMC, Campos foil FirstPac's Del Monte bid

3 banks to extend loan for tender offer

By Victor C. Agustin and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. JOINED FORCES WITH CONDIMENTS TYcoon Joselito Campos Jr. and the Lorenzos to foil a takeover bid of the First Pacific Group of food and juice conglomerate Del Monte Pacific Ltd., sources close to the negotiations said yesterday.

Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd., BDO Capital and Investments Corp. and Development Bank of the Philippines have agreed to extend debt financing to the Campos consortium for the mandatory tender offer. The total value of the deal is estimated to be $420 million.

Campos, whose NutriAsia Inc. makes UFC catsup and Datu Puti vinegar, will control 58 percent, with SMC taking the balance of 42 percent, of a special purpose vehicle that will eventually buy out the Lorenzos' 22-percent stake as well as the 40-percent shareholdings of Italian food maker Cirio Finanziaria in Del Monte Pacific.

Despite being minority shareholders, the Lorenzo family, which controls the Philippine operations of Del Monte, made use of its voting block agreement with the Italian food company to overcome the First Pacific takeover attempt by simply matching the latter's bid.

First Pacific offered about $164 million to acquire the Cirio stake, and readied another $260 million for the mandatory general offer for the rest of the Del Monte Pacific shares.

Cirio's stake has been up for sale since 2003, with SMC initially losing the bidding to

SMC/ B2

GMA-7 public offering seen in 2nd quarter

GMA NETWORK INC. MAY PUSH AHEAD with plans to offer its shares to the public in the second quarter of 2006.

INQUIRER sources said that GMA-7 would use the funds to be generated from the sale of shares to foreign and local investors to expand its operations here and abroad.

GMA earlier planned to sell 25 to 30 percent of its shares to the public by early next year, with its major shareholders convinced they had found a way to iron out their differences and address their concerns.

GMA president Felipe Gozon said the company's stockholders were now looking at proceeds higher than the previous estimate of P9 billion. He said the network's strong performance this year had most likely increased the company's market value from P30 billion last year.

GMA was supposed to hold an IPO in the first semester this year. However, it called off the plan in March due to differences among its shareholders—the Gozon, Duavit and Jimenez families.

The three groups were concerned about the possibility of losing majority control of the network.

The Gozon-Duavit group wanted to forge a shareholders' agreement requiring the present owners to hold on to their stakes long after the six-month holdout period required by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Jimenez family, however, refused to sign the shareholders' agreement, but stressed that it was not opposed to the IPO plan.

The Duavit and Jimenez families each own

GMA-7/ B2

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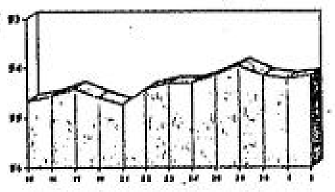

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As of 5 p.m., Dec. 2, 2005

¥ 120.66 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 2, 2005

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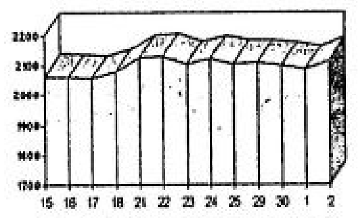
STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares rise 1.4% on Wall St.'s rally

SHARES ROSE YESTERDAY AFter two straight sessions of losses, boosted by Wall Street's rally.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index climbed 28.71 points, or 1.4 percent, to 2,114.89, after giving up one percent in the past two sessions, including Thursday's 0.6-percent loss.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average's one-percent gain Thursday prompted investors to start accumulating choice stocks, among them blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and new members recently added to the stock exchange index, said PCCI Securi-

SHARES/ B2

AMSBERG says remittances should not distract the country from its huge potential for domestic investment and growth. PDI PHOTO

RP warned against relying too much on OFW money

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD BANK YESTERDAY warned the Philippines against complacency on critical economic reforms just because the country was getting huge inflows from overseas Filipino workers.

In a new report presented yesterday, it also noted that the brain drain, or the exodus of skilled workers, was becoming a serious problem especially in the local health and education sector. It noted that 1,000 private hospitals have closed since 2000; 6,000 doctors have shifted to nursing; 10,000 teachers left since 1988, and 32,000 teachers have become domestic helpers in East Asia.

WB country director Joachim von Amsberg said that behind the positive stories, strong OFW flows over the years might in some way be distracting regulators from implementing further domestic economic reforms.

The new WB report titled "Global Economic Prospects 2006: The Economic Implications of Remittances and Migration" stated that migration should not be viewed as a substitute for economic development in the origin country as ultimately, development depended on sound domes-

RP WARNED/ B2

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SMC to consolidate food business

Beer giant to put brands under National Foods

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SOUTHEAST ASIA'S LARGEST food and beverage company plans to fold in its food businesses under the dairy firm National Foods Ltd.

National Foods—which San Miguel Corp. acquired last June—is the leading manufacturer of dairy products in Australia.

According to Ramon S. Ang, San Miguel president, National Foods is expected to post good sales and operating profit figures for the year.

"National Food's year-to-date performance since its consolidation into the San Miguel Group represents a strong start, marked by solid top-line growth across its portfolio, and earnings that (fell within) our projected range," Ang yesterday said in a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"That's a sign of momentum," Ang added. "Our growth targets for National Foods are realistic, and they put us on a path of consistent growth and value creation that can be sustained over time."

Building on this growth, San Miguel is currently studying ways to consolidate its domestic and regional food businesses under National Foods, Ang said.

With its acquisition of National Foods, the leading food company in the Philippines has expanded its reach beyond its existing consumer product portfolio.

"In the past year, we have added capabilities and improved our execution in our Philippine food business, which has lifted our sales growth," Ang said. "We have become more profitable and we are generating significant cash flow."

San Miguel also owns an ice cream company, with operations in Malaysia and Singapore. It also has a processed foods business in Indonesia, and a feeds business in Vietnam.

Ang said that the acquisition of National Foods opens new product innovation opportunities across the company's food businesses in the region. This will allow the company to lower procurement costs of basic raw materials for its Philippine- and Malaysia-based dairy businesses.

"Our brand positions in Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia are strong and growing," Ang said. "And we have ample opportunity to improve our operating margins through increased scale and productivity.

"Our acquisition of National Foods has made us a major player in the regional food business, and positions us for even greater growth."

DOE swept with offers for gas, coal production

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY received six proposals for petroleum exploration and development, and another five proposals for coal development and production at the close of the Philippine Energy Contracting Round (PECR) last Tuesday.

The DOE will evaluate these proposals based on work program, as well as the financial and technical capabilities of the contractor, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

Legal issues will also be considered, he added.

The contracts are expected to be awarded by June 2006.

The DOE last August offered for bidding several coal, geothermal and petroleum sites that were deemed "promising."

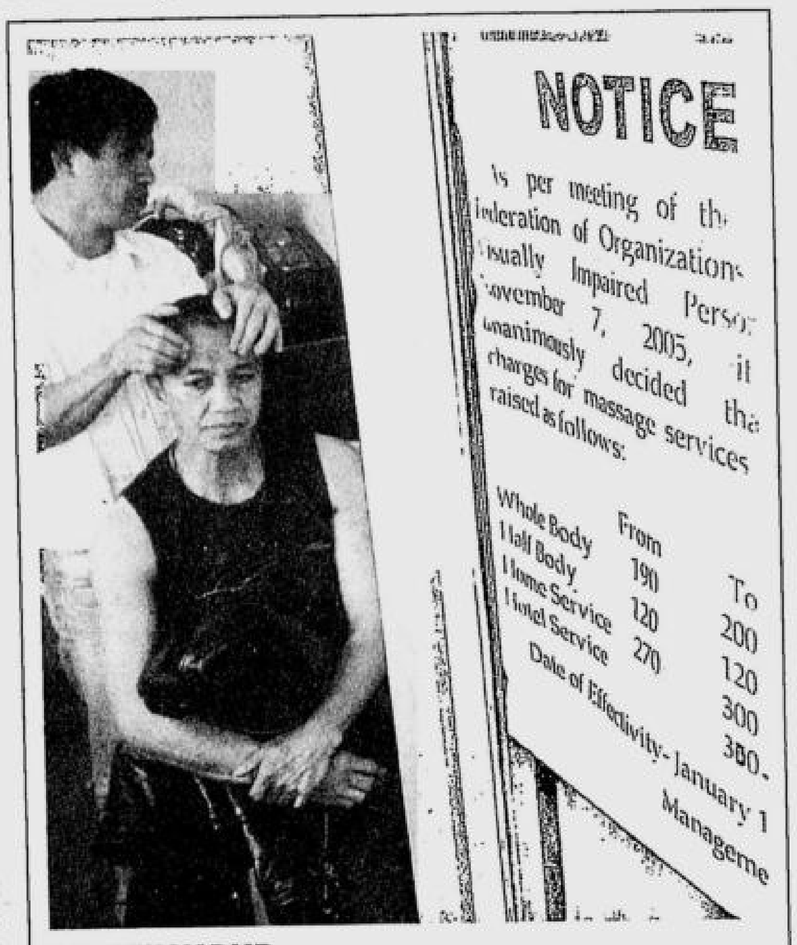
For coal, seven areas have been offered for exploration, development and production. These sites have a total resource potential of 741 million metric tons of coal.

The seven sites placed on the auction block are: Polillo Island and Tagkawayan in Quezon, Calatrava in Negros Occidental, Candoni/Bayawan in Negros Oriental, Malangas in Zamboanga Sibugay, Gigaquit in Surigao del Norte and Tandag-Tago-Lianga-Bislig in Surigao del Sur.

The DOE also offered for bidding four petroleum contract areas covering a total of 53,989.4 square kilometers in shallow to deep water off Southwest Palawan, East Palawan and the Sulu Sea basin. All the sites have proven petroleum reserves.

Also offered for development were 11 geothermal sites, both for power generation and nonpower applications.

"We're going to wait for the (Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp.) proposal for geothermal," Lotilla said.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Half Body 120 120
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Hotel Service 270 300
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Even the blind see how the VAT hike is affecting them. Professional masseurs, who offer their services along a busy thoroughfare in Baguio City, have increased their rates by 20 percent, keeping in step with the hike in taxes. EV ESPIRITU

ATI secures ₱1-B loan for capital investments

PORT OPERATOR ASIAN TERMINALS Inc. yesterday signed a P1-billion loan to pay off some maturing obligations and finance part of its capital investments for next year.

BDO Capital & Investment Corp. and SB Capital Investment Corp. will arrange the loan with a group of financial institutions, according to ATI's disclosure to the stock exchange.

The loans will mature in five to seven years.

The company, which operates the South Harbor in Manila and the Batangas Port, has P3 billion in outstanding debt as of end-September. ATI has no foreign loan.

In the first nine months, ATI settled some of its loans worth. It paid off P77.2 million to ANZ and amortized a P100-million loan with HSBC.

The company said that interest rates on its local borrowings ranged from 8 percent to 14.74 percent this year compared to 7.68 percent to 14.34 percent last year.

ATI, which received the approval of the Philippine Ports Authority in October to revise its investment plan for the South Harbor expansion, said that it had incurred P187.7 million worth of capital expenditures this year for the container yard and port facilities.

The gradual investment, it said, was synchronized with projections of future growth in cargo traffic at the South Harbor.

PPA general manager Oscar Sevilla earlier said ATI wanted to cut its original investment plan for South Harbor to $130 million from the original $300 million.

ATI said that its net income from January to September grew by 76.5 percent to P431.3 million from P244.3 million on the back of higher revenue and improved cost efficiency.

The company's interest expenses, however, grew by 15 percent, or by P45.9 million, due to higher average interest rate and increased level of loans. *Clarissa S. Batino*

15% hike in cargo fees won't include ro-ro vessels, says PPA

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY yesterday said that cargo handling for roll-on, roll-off vessels would not be included in the 15-percent increase in arrastre and stevedoring tariff for domestic cargoes.

Oscal Sevilla, PPA general manager, said that the exemption of ro-ro vessels from the coverage of the 15-percent tariff hike, which took effect last Nov. 11, was meant to boost inter-island trade as well as local tourism.

The vessels are the backbone of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway.

Vehicles loaded as full ro-ro units such as motorcycles, tricycles, scooters, cards, minivans, SUVs, AUVs, public utility vehicles, light delivery vans, pick-up trucks, stake trucks, heavy delivery trucks, passenger or tourist buses, prime movers or tracker heads, have all been spared from the tariff hike.

But the increase would be applied to other modes of rolling cargoes, such as the so-called Cha-ro.

These are chassis or trailers, empty or loaded with cargo.

The PPA said that the Sto-ro type of cargo handling should also be covered by the 15-percent increase.

Sevilla said the Philippine Chamber of Arrastre and Stevedoring Services sought the increase in fees.

"The PPA believes the increase was justified because of the increased spending for fuel, electricity and wages," said Sevilla.

RP warned against relying . . .

From page B1

tic economic policies.

The report was presented by co-authors Dilip Ratha and Hans Timmer through a video conference from Singapore.

In the Philippine context, Amsberg said that even in the absence of stronger domestic productivity growth, the economy had remained resilient because of strong remittances from abroad.

"But over the years, excellent performance of remittances may have contributed to complacency in addressing fiscal deficits and low productivity growth. Remittances should not distract the country from its huge potential for domestic investment and growth," Amsberg said.

Even on the individual level, he said there might be less pressure to raise productivity because households were receiving cash subsidies from overseas family members.

"Combining high remittances with sustained policies to restore the fiscal health of the country and improve its investment climate, the Philippines could live up to its potential, join the best-performing countries in East Asia, and reduce poverty rapidly," Amsberg said.

"This potential can be unleashed through domestic policy reforms, such as a sustained effort to collect taxes equitably, transparently and effectively and then spend them efficiently for public services," he said.

While maintaining high levels of remittances, he said domestic reforms must also be pursued to make the Philippines more attractive to local and foreign investors, improve governance and weed out corruption. That way, he said the Philippines would enjoy higher economic growth and reduce poverty faster.

SMC, Campos foil . . .

From page B1

taipan Lucio Tan.

Tan eventually backed out of the Del Monte takeover, given the enormous cash requirement for the mandatory general offer.

Trading of the Singapore-listed Del Monte Pacific shares was suspended yesterday to await the Campos-SMC-Lorenzo counter-bid, which was turned in literally at the 11th hour.

Del Monte Pacific owns Del Monte brand rights for the Philippines and the Indian sub-continent. The company also has long-term contracts to supply canned pineapple, juice and mixed tropical fruits to North America, Europe and the Far East.

As of December 2004, beverages comprised 27 percent of its total revenues, with 67 percent coming from processed food and 5 percent from non-processed food.

The Del Monte Pacific portfolio includes canned fruits, a variety of tomato-based sauces, fruit salad cream, pasta, condiments, juice drinks and concentrates, and one of the world's largest and most efficient pineapple plantations. In the Philippines, products are sold under the Del Monte and Today's brands. It has strong market position in the Philippines with more than 85 percent market share in pineapple solids and about 80 percent in mixed fruits and tomato sauce.

"This is an exciting opportunity to continue to build great brands. Together with San Miguel Corp., we will continue the exceptional growth of the brand and further strengthen DMPI's geographical reach," Campos said.

Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., chair and chief executive of SMC, said: "We are impressed with the success the (Del Monte Pacific) team has achieved. Our businesses share a passion for quality products in food and beverages, so this is a very natural fit."

GMA-7 . . .

From page B1

35 percent of the company while Gozon controls the remaining 30 percent.

Since the Duavit and Gozon groups are allies, the Jimenez family was relegated to become the minority shareholder.

The majority shareholders were worried that a third-party could purchase shares of the network from the market and the Jimenez family, and end up controlling the company.

Joel Jimenez, the family's representative in the GMA board and in the executive committee, said they had agreed to the new proposal of the Gozon-Duavit camp.

GMA's financial advisers—ATR Kim Eng and Deutsche Bank—has proposed a new structure that will disperse the shares well and make it impossible for one group to corner a huge block.

The proposed structure has yet to be submitted for approval to the Securities and Exchange Commission. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 2, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	33.5	32.5	33	438,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59.5	58.5	59.5	467,000
China Banking Corp.	605	605	605	605	22,470
Citystate Savings Bank	17	17.5	17	17.5	2,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	220,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	52.5	55	52.5	54.5	236,100
International Exch. Bank	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	46,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32.5	31	32	2,643,900
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	57,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	14	14	15,000
Security Bank Corp.	33	33.5	33	33.5	47,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	7,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.85	150,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3135	3140	3135	3135	680
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	207,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2155	2160	2155	2155	660
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	14	14	18,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.94	2,380,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	760	765	755	760	27,390
Ipeople Inc.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.45	344,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.055	0.047	0.047	9,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	1,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.6	1.68	1.6	1.68	36,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.45	3.55	3.45	3.5	4,643,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1735	1760	1735	1755	75,660
Ivantage Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	180,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	163,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15.5	15	15	48,100
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24	23.75	24	313,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.6	4,580,000
Petron Corp.	4.35	4.5	4.35	4.5	8,905,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.6	35,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.5	366,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.69	0.69	3,930,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.8	3.95	3.8	3.9	3,938,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	65,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	56,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	25.5	25.5	16,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	40	41.5	40	41.5	329,900
Pancake House Inc.	3.65	3.7	3.6	3.7	103,000
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	137,100
San Miguel Corp. B	88	88	88	88	42,400
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	9	9	9	9	1,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	2,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	173,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge.,Inc. B	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	2,000
Ayala Corp.	347.5	352.5	347.5	350	262,300
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	230,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.9	4.85	4.9	2,214,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	4,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.12	2.14	2.12	2.14	867,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	15,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.91	1,430,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	14,659,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	11,190,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	665,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	1,000,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	16,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	51	51	49	50	1,398,900
House Of Investments Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	130,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.7	3.65	3.7	650,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	11,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.3	1.34	5,031,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	70,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	12,380,000
Paxys Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	793,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	720,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1	1	122,000
SM Investments Corp.	245	246	245	246	22,350
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	4,790,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	80,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	221,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.06	1,703,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	10,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	26	26	26	26	700
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	470,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	180,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	350,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.25	14.25	13.75	13.75	370,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.6	3,121,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	182,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	11,350,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	290,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	480,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	16,380,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	1,773,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	400,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.205	0.205	4,080,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	1,400,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6	6	6	6	128,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.5	1.44	1.46	1,598,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.1	11,705,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	120,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	122,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.2	6	6	1,215,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	420,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.215	31,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	8,040,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	451,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.031	0.029	0.031	134,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	51,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	2,879,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.64	1.68	1.62	1.64	6,605,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	28	28	765,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.29	2,370,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	12,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	66,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,450,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	40,000

Shares rise . . .

From page B1

ties president Francisco Liboro.

PLDT was the most actively traded stock with a gain of 1.2 percent to close at P1,755, in step with the one-percent rise in the company's American depositary receipts in New York Thursday.

Other active stocks included new index members SM Investments, which gained 2.9 percent to close at P246; Manila Water, up 1.5 percent at P6.60; Pilipino Telephone, up 1.5 percent at P3.50, and Philex Mining "B," which rose 3.8 percent to P1.64.

Banco de Oro, also a new index member, ended unchanged at P33.

The oil subindex was the only sector on the market that retreated. Gainers led decliners 50 to 27, while 59 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

CURRENCIES

December 2, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.852006	1.000000	54.1980
Japan	Yen	0.007067	0.008295	0.4496
United Kingdom	Pound	1.474994	1.731200	93.8276
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109867	0.128951	6.9889
Switzerland	Franc	0.646783	0.759129	41.1433
Canada	Dollar	0.731148	0.858148	46.5099
Singapore	Dollar	0.504027	0.591576	32.0622
Australia	Dollar	0.631490	0.741180	40.1705
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.261764	2.654632	143.8757
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227189	0.266652	14.4520
Brunei	Dollar	0.502540	0.589831	31.9677
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000100	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020645	0.024231	1.3133
UAE	Dirham	0.231971	0.272264	14.7562
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.173700	63.6122
Argentina	Peso	0.286629	0.336417	18.2331
Brazil	Real	0.385349	0.452284	24.5129
Denmark	Kroner	0.134174	0.157480	8.5351
India	Rupee	0.018534	0.021753	1.1790
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225458	0.264620	14.3419
Mexico	New Peso	0.081128	0.095220	5.1607
New Zealand	Dollar	0.599287	0.703383	38.1220
South Africa	Rand	0.132035	0.154969	8.3990
Korea	Won	0.000824	0.000967	0.0524
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025418	0.029833	1.6169

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Kidney center gives medical, spiritual care

By Abe Florendo
Contributor

THE SISTERS OF ST. PAUL of Chartres understand the more earthly reality that although prayers do help, medicine also heals. They know that miracles, although said to never cease, are not to be fully depended on if one needs a kidney transplant. The sisters' new kidney center at the St. Paul's Hospital in Iloilo will take care of that.

Hospital administrator Sister Linda Tanalgo says the sisters are committed to a healing ministry that proclaims God's compassionate and infinite love for humankind.

"Curing is evangelizing," she says.

Since 1911, St. Paul's Hospital has been ministering to the inhabitants of the city and its neighboring provinces of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Palawan and Negros Occidental. The hospital has kept pace with the city's development by modernizing its facilities and competencies.

Last September, the hospital launched its Kidney Transplant and Total Quality Kidney Care Program.

Cooperative endeavor

"We can do kidney transplants right here. You don't have to go to Manila to have it done," says nephrologist Helen Caro Pastolero, spokesperson of the Kidney Center.

The Kidney Care Program is a cooperative endeavor of the hospital's varied services, such as nephrology, urology and anesthesiology. Kidney patients may avail themselves of such services as medical care for both adult and pediatric patients, hemodialyis or peritoneal dialysis, kidney stone surgery, prostate management and surgery—and now kidney transplant.

Kidney care is part of the St. Paul's Integrated Center of Expertise (SPICE), which includes programs on arthritis, prostate, breast and digestive and pulmonary diseases, that would, Sister Linda hopes, make St. Paul's the premier hospital in Western Visayas.

At risk

Who tend to get kidney disease? People with diabetes mellitus, hypertension and chronic glomerulo nephritis, says Pastolero.

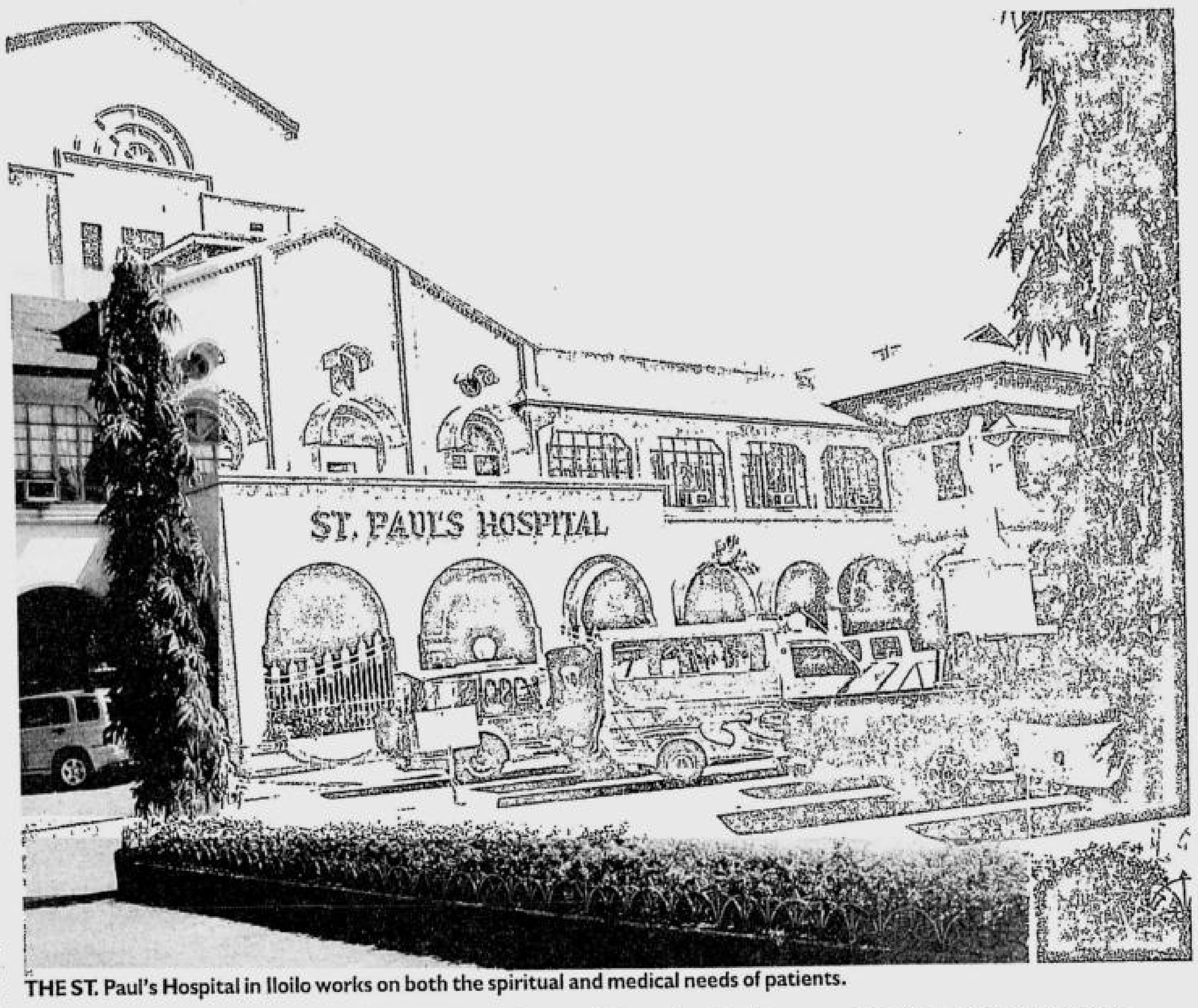
Signs of kidney disease are uncontrolled high blood pressure, anemia, edema in the legs and around the eyes, loss of appetite, general malaise and lower back pains.

According to Pastolero, there are 120 kidney cases for every one million Filipinos. Of that number, 20 percent to 30 percent would have dialysis and only 5 percent to 10 percent would get a kidney transplant.

Why this very small percentage? For one, the great expense. The cost of a kidney transplant can range from as low as P450,000 to as high as P1.5 million.

Another factor is donor availability. Misconceptions about donating one's kidneys still abound, but it's actually a very safe operation.

Kidneys can be donated by the living or harvested from cadavers.


THE ST. Paul's Hospital in Iloilo works on both the spiritual and medical needs of patients.

"God is wise," says transplant surgeon Romulo Barrameda. "He gave us two kidneys, one of which we can give to another person who needs it."

Public awareness

St. Paul's has been at the forefront of creating public awareness on kidney care and treatment. It also promotes professional expertise through symposiums and coordinated work with the Philippine Society of Nephrologists and the National Kidney Institute Foundation, which is at the frontline of the Human Organ Preservation Effort (HOPE).

It takes pride in its all-Ilonggo kidney transplant team of urologists, nephrologists, anesthesiologists, and surgeons.

The operating room nurses underwent four months' immersion at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) in Quezon City.

"The key to the success of a kidney transplant," says Pastolero, "is teamwork."

Happy endings

Barrameda, who has had five years experience as a general surgeon, trained for two years in kidney transplant surgery at the NKTI. He was chief surgeon for a patient there whose cousin, retired Army Col. Apolinario Todela, he later performed a kidney transplant on at St. Paul's Iloilo.

Todela, 59, has his nephew Ramon Brito to thank for his new, well-functioning kidney. His is just one of the stories with happy endings that St. Paul's Kidney Center would be proud to tell.

Still, St. Paul's is realistic about the roadblocks to a kidney transplant.

Says Barrameda: "We don't encourage a kidney transplant for patients older than 65 or 70. We also look into target organ damage from previous heart attacks, strokes or failure. It's also very important that a patient can maintain the required medications for life."

Sister Linda expects to see the unfolding of the other SPICE programs in the coming months. She hopes these programs will "blaze the trail for more innovations" in the other subspecialties and make available more services to its patients, especially the poor.

All these are in line with St. Paul de Chartres' mission of spreading "God's compassionate love" and empowering its health-care providers to do "what works." Meaning, the newest medical technology, and prayers.

Millennium problems

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

BRENT BUELA [BUDZ_012000@yahoo.com] has this intriguing question: "What is the hardest math problem you ever encountered?"

There are a lot of math problems that fascinate me, but I will have to agree with most mathematicians that the hardest unsolved puzzles are the so-called Millennium Problems. In 2000, the Clay Foundation in Cambridge, Massachusetts, challenged experts to try their hand at seven difficult puzzlers, with $1 million for each at stake. The problems span applied and pure math, from topology and number theory to computer science and particle physics.

The problems are too complex to be published here, but let me give you an idea of what they are about.

Prime numbers

The Riemann Hypothesis, formulated in 1859 by German mathematician Bernhard Riemann, makes a conjecture about prime numbers and the way they are distributed. It includes a zeta function and complex numbers. Interestingly, it became the basis for a plot in the TV series "Numbers" (Mondays at 9 p.m. on AXN). The plot got it right: unraveling the Riemann hypothesis may affect code-forming and code-breaking, as prime numbers are the basis of our most secure cipher systems.

A related problem is the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer Conjecture, posed by British mathematicians Brian Birch and Peter Swinnerton-Dyer in the 1960s. Involving elliptic curves (used by Andrew Wiles to prove Fermat's Last Theorem), the conjecture also helps us better understand prime numbers.

The Yang-Mills Theory and the Mass Gap Hypothesis were formed half a century ago by physicists Chen-Ning Yang and Robert Mills to describe all forces of nature, except gravity. The physics works, but the math is not yet refined. Solving these will further our understanding of how the quantum realm (and ultimately, our world) works, and explain why, for instance, electrons have mass.

The P versus NP Problem (posed by US mathematician Stephen Cook and countless others) concerns computers—specifically, how efficiently computers can solve problems. Type P tasks are easily done, type E can take millions of years, and type NP, well, seems to be between them, but no one really knows for sure. Are P and NP the same? If not, how different are they? (This came out in another episode of "Numbers.") The solution has big implications for industry, commerce and electronic communications, including the Internet.

Differential equations

The Navier-Stokes Equations, by French Claude Henri Navier and Irishman George Gabriel Stokes, both mathematicians, describe the motion of liquids and gases, such as water around a boat and air over a plane wing. These partial differential equations may look simple, but no one has yet found a formula to get the exact solutions. Thankfully, engineers use approximations to design better watercraft and aircraft. Knowing the exact solution will lead to advances in nautical and aeronautical science.

The Poincare Conjecture, first raised by the French mathematician Henri Poincare a century ago, is about topology, the study of surfaces. For instance, stretch a rubber band around an apple's surface, and you can shrink it without tearing or allowing it to leave the surface. This same cannot be done with a donut. Poincaire was interested in four-dimensional analogues of apples and donuts, and understanding them better can help us design better silicon chips, understand the brain, and improve transportation and media.

Even harder to understand is the Hodge Conjecture, about how complex math objects can be built from simpler ones. There is another question in topology, posed by Scottish mathematician William Hodge in 1950, and it is the most abstract problem of all.

If you want to impress your friends, then say this: for projective algebraic varieties, Hodge cycles are algebraic cycles. However, like the Poincare Conjecture, solving this problem may revolutionize our world.

Intrigued? For details about these puzzles, read Keith Devlin's "The Millennium Problems" (Basic Books, NY, 2002).

Writing intelligently

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

AT SOME POINT IN SCHOOL, YOU had to write a paper that required either a minimum of several thousand characters, several hundred words, or at least a dozen pages, single-spaced.

Maybe you didn't have enough data to fill all those pages, so you had to improvise. You narrowed the page margins, changed the typeface (because changing the font size would have been too obvious), and then used the dictionary and thesaurus to come up with longer synonyms to the words you wrote in your draft. Not only would the latter help your character requirements, but it would make you sound smarter too, right?

With apologies to students everywhere, that theory was busted in the Oct. 31 issue of the Applied Cognitive Psychology journal.

Daniel Oppenheimer, a psychology professor at Princeton (the experiments were conducted while he was still at Stanford), says that despite knowing the importance of keeping one's writing simple and straightforward, many students choose to embellish their written texts with words that aren't part of their everyday vocabulary because it makes them appear smarter.

Perceptual fluency

In a series of experiments involving at least 100 Stanford undergraduates, Oppenheimer found that using more complicated wording in a text lowered the readers' "perceptual fluency," which he defines as the ease with which information is processed, and thus lowered their opinion of the writer's intelligence.

The three experiments that supported these findings examined the reader's perception of the writer by providing two versions of the same graduate school admissions essay.

The original wording was first compared against the same excerpt with certain words replaced by longer synonyms, and then against the excerpt that featured shorter synonym substitutes. To avoid any bias against the choice of text presented, a third experiment used different translations of a French text, one with simpler wording than the other.

There are exceptions to the implied simple-wording-equals-high-intelligence rule. While simplified texts of complex theories and works may help the reader understand the author's thoughts better, oversimplifying can sometimes mislead the readers as to the author's actual intent and words can mean different things in various fields depending on the context.

Fluent font

Oppenheimer then looked at other factors that could impact the readers' impressions. Experiment 4 presented the exact same text in the "fluent" Times New Roman and so-called "non-fluent" Juice ITC typefaces.

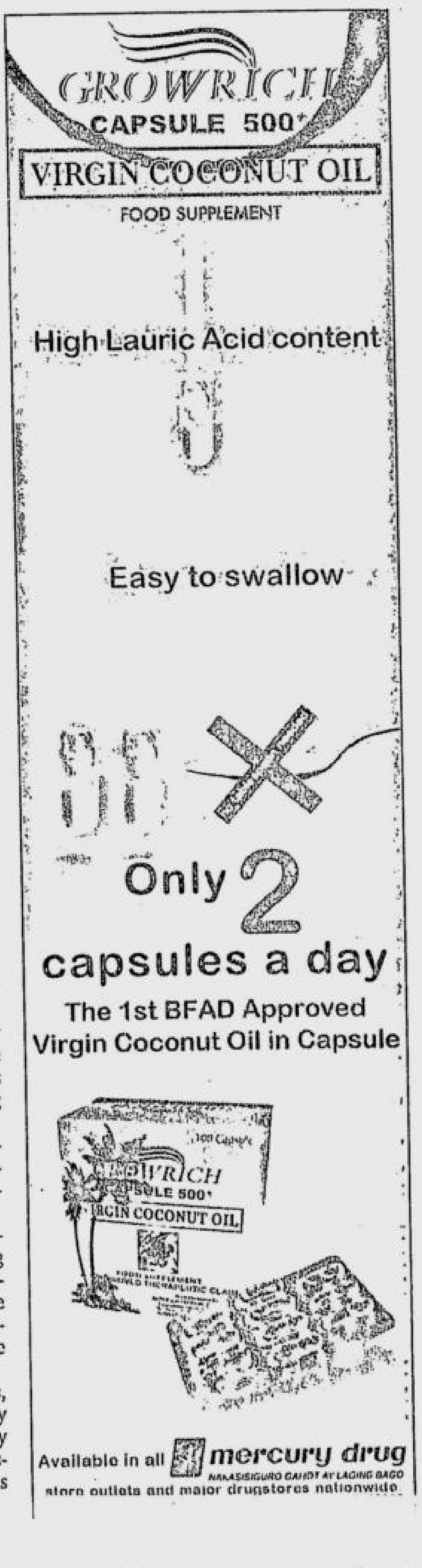
Readers agreed that the latter font was harder to read, giving an impression of more complex text and thus causing them to give a lower estimate of the author's intelligence.

Interestingly, Oppenheimer also found that when participants were given poorly printed text because the printer toner was low, the readers were inclined to be more forgiving of the obvious low fluency and actually assumed that the writer was more intelligent than his work would suggest. Understanding why this is so involves further study.

One research topic that Oppenheimer broached has to do with the reasoning behind using complex vocabularies in the first place.

If the writer wanted to project an image of confidence in his work by using different words and fonts and the appearance fails to deceive, what can be done to help the writer become confident without resorting to subterfuge and make the text more readable?

There may be a longer answer to this, but it seems clear that the easiest way out is to have the facts straight, to fully understand the topic that is to be discussed, and then to write it all up as clearly as possible.



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1.4M-13M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br 10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP 10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MANILA

INTRAMUROS 09153709774

SAN ANDRES MANILA
5BR 5T&B 4 CAR GARAGE
MARICEL 5344515-81

MARIKINA

97SQ 4BR 2FLR NR STA LU 9158015 0917-8580878 P2M

Bnew 4br3tb jacuzi 3.2M 9487112

PROVIDENT VILL nr ATENEO 413m^2 w/ 3hses nr gate P4M LOT ONLY 301m^2 gate Rush 2.2Mneg T6356003; 9338423

QUEZON CITY

3 STRY 4BR 5CR NICE BIG 300LA 370FA 9.5M 38 DAGUPAN SFDM 09178909502

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

•Kamias #76K-6 new 9210255 / 9967 09178865431

Nr Visayas Av Gloria IV Subd 5BR 5T&B 4554123/4566854

SMH (near Retiro) res/off/whse 264m^2 3sty conc 11M-7318973

TANDANG SORA 300SQM 2STRY 4.5M (NEG) 8299386 09184049111/ 09209624233

RIZAL

140m^2 B36 L48 Robinsons Antipolo Col 0927-4403460

BAGUIO

Bes. Baguio Country Club LA1565 FA900 0918-9097095

LAGUNA

Brandnew H&L 1M-25M (10am-5pm) 842-1914/842-9570/0915-8260255

Laguna Bel-Air Sta Rosa Low D/P Edna 0917-8312369 Mariel 0917-6215864

CONDO/TWNHSE

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BSA Tower Studio Furnish P4.3M &P3.5M 09163638956

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RFO STUD 1-2BR 1.9M-7M NR BUENDIA 20% DP MOVE-IN TERMS AVBLE 0917-8997547

RUSH! CONDO nr C5 D'Fort Lakeview Manors 2BR w/Prkg 1.4M 0906-2621143 • 0917-8212400

MANILA

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09178102903 / 09165778713

MARIKINA

1-3br Pre-Selling 0917-8997547

PASIG

2BR P5M Ortigas Ctr Nr. Robinsons 0916-3725766

Malayan Plaza 634-1212

Malayan Plaza Best Location Podium 4121825 09177914366

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PERSONAL

CONSULTING SERVICES

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Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 5yrs to Pay "0" Interest 9126976Rose

GILMORE CONDO 09172580899

QC Condo 560T 0916-5412000

LAGUNA

Hot Springs Resorts Sale or Rent 934m^2 6 Units Townhouses w/ Individual Pools Jacusis 0917-8865134

APARTMENT

MAKATI

Nr. Pasng Tamo/JP Rizal LA 33m^2 FA 60m^2 2BR Up&Dwn Pls contct 0917-8502559 / 0917-5314881

LOT

MARIKINA

354M^2 TOWN & COUNTRY MARCOS P3,7M^2 916-8015 0917-8580878

PASIG

VALLE VERDE 5 MORN'G SUN 400m^2 @ P39T/m^2 6337601-03

QUEZON CITY

2.5M PROJ.8 09208309744

GloriaIV Subd nr Visayas Ave 444m^2 455-4123/456-6854

GRAND VILLAS Top Row w/view back ATENEO LOTS hse & lots avble 426-5650 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m^2 P8,500/m^2 0918-9235216★

NORTHVIEW I BATASAN DBO 272m^2 P5950/m^2 655-8804

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Tgtay 320sqm 9175335898

BATANGAS

PUNTA FUEGO
Prime 899 & 420m^2
Cel: 0918-9037273

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Park II 634-1212

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

LIAN,BATS. nr Matabungkay 3000-15000m^2 with hse water elect Comml narra Mahgny nr hway alng concrt Road nice breezy Call 0916-3638956

Res'l Farm Lot 3.2hac Naic Cavite 4554123/4566854

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

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HOUSE

LAS PINAS

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MAKATI

Up & Dwn 7284275 P5T Mkt

MANDALUYONG

Sta. Lucia St. 3BR Grg 5347689

VARIOUS AREAS

Ponte St. Makati 2BR LasPinas 2BR w/Parking 8983447

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR CTL 9 8019537/9175335898

Stud-Legaspi Vil. 0917-8454534

MANILA

CONDO NR UST 09155835289

NR LASALLE 3BR 3TB 8992148

Ocean Tower, Rxs Blvd 3BR&TB, Pkg, Facing Bay 55K; 09178587929

MARIKINA

Bnew 2sty 2BR w/covrd grge Tierra Vista Subd 948-0309

PASIG

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NEAR EVER GOTESCO PASIG
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QUEZON CITY

CUBAO, COLUMBIA 2BR Furn P18TH/MO SAVELL 646-1603

SAN JUAN

G'HILLS 1BR 5268048/49

VARIED AREAS

Makati/Ortigas 1-2-3 BRS P25-90T/mo 889-6475;4796

APARTMENT

MAKATI

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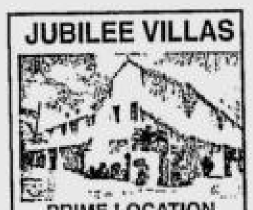
MANILA

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel 7313035 7361925 9209541

PASIG

2BR nr McDo P7 5 641-0282

JUBILEE VILLAS



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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on December 15, 2005, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 4, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (SQ.M)	LOCATION	FLOOR PRICE
REAL ESTATE				
METRO MANILA				
AM-DE-282	House and Lot (TCT No. 165829)	180	L-40 B-7, Orange Drive, Goodwill 2 Subd., Brgy. BF Homes, Parañaque City	P 986,900.00
AM-CP-283	House and Lot (TCT No. 164764)	294	3290 Zapote St., Sta. Cruz, Makati City	P 4,500,000.00
AM-JA-284	Six adjoining parcels of residential lots: (TCT No. 14906, 14907, 14908, 14909, 13919 & 13920) w/ bldg. facilities & imp.	1,812	Road Lot 5, Tindalo St. & Major J. Posadas Ave. Doña Rosario Heights Subd., Sucat, Muntinlupa City	P 9,505,200.00
AM-JA-285	Five parcels of lots: (TCT No. 267596, 267597, 267598 267599) w/ bldg. & facilities	646	Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila	P 13,200,200.00
BULACAN				
AM-MR-286	House and Lot (TCT No. T-373670 (M)	40	Lot 6, Blk. 1, Grottoville Homes Subd., Brgy. Gaya-Gaya, San Jose Del Monte City	P 159,600.00
Sub-287	Residential lots (TCT Nos. T-437336; T-437337; T-437338 & T-437339)	1,477	Farm View Subd., Bo. Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte City	P 3,692,500.00
CEBU				
AM-DE-288	Interior rice land (TCT No. T-61845)	1,035	Poblacion Ward 1, Minglanilla	P 290,000.00
ILIGAN				
AM-MC-289	Residential lot (TCT No. T-57,199)	1,150	Mahayhay, Iligan City	P 1,897,500.00
LAGUNA				
AM-JA-290	Industrial lot (TCT No. T-231486) w/ bldg., facilities & machinery & equipment	24,294	117 Progress Ave. corner, Industry Drive, Carmelrayville Industrial Subd., Canlubang	P 169,543,900.00
NUEVA ECIJA			Vista Amor Subd., Bangad, Cabanatuan City	
AM-PY-291	House and Lot (TCT No. T-119921)	100	Lot 20 Blk 1	P 401,600.00
AM-PY-292	House and Lot (TCT No. T-119920)	100	Lot 1 Blk 1	P 436,000.00
AM-PY-293	House and Lot (TCT No. T-119922)	100	Lot 19 Blk 1	P 418,400.00
AM-PY-294	House and Lot (TCT No. T-119918)	100	Lot 14 Blk 1	P 461,900.00
AM-PY-295	House and Lot (TCT No. T-119919)	100	Lot 26 Blk 1	P 456,900.00
AM-MC-296	Eight parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. 26584, 26546, 265847, 265851, 265853, 265856, 265858 and 265859)	2,400	Magno Subd., Sto. Cristo San Isidro, Nueva Ecija	P 882,000.00
AM-MC-297	Agricultural land (TCT Nos. 274203 and 265109)	7,104	Sto. Cristo, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija	P 2,486,400.00
CHATTELS				
AM-ML-298	One (1) unit ACC Electric Generating Set, diesel, KA-750S, 75KVA, 220 V output, 1950 G stored at Brgy. Mamala, Sariaya, Quezon			P 47,360.00
AM-JA-299	One (1) unit Nissan Forklift stored at 2337 Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila			P 30,000.00
AM-JA-300	Seven (7) units Spiral/Hobart Mixer w/ accessories for Die & Mold Bowllor stored at 2337 Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila			P 33,000.00
AM-JA-301	One (1) unit CNC Turret Punch Press, "AMADA" w/ 20 kw elec. Motor & accessories located at 2337 Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila			P 5,250,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566 / 893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158 / 2159 for Code starting with AM and (047) 252-3092 for SUB.

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(PDI – December 3 & 4, 2005)

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Dec. 3, 2005	Saturday	– 6 pm sharp	– Jollibee Mendiola
Dec. 5, 2005	Monday	– 2 pm sharp	– Jollibee Megamall 5th floor
Dec. 7, 2005	Wednesday	– 10 am, 2 pm, 4 pm	– 2nd floor Padilla Bldg., CM Recto beside Dunkin Donut
Dec. 9, 2005	Friday	– 2 pm & 6 pm sharp	– Jollibee Mendiola
Dec. 11, 2005	Sunday	– 4 pm sharp	– Jollibee Mendiola

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1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

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2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

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AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on Dec. 12, 2005, Mon. at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively, July 15 - Aug. 12, 2005 SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer (PDI Dec. 03, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines

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E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph•Web Site http://www.sss.gov.ph

LIST OF WINNERS FOR THE DELINQUENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - 4th Raffle Draw - November 14, 2005

The following will be notified by mail as regards their prizes:

SEQ #	SS NUMBER	MEMBER'S NAME	ADDRESS
1	07-0182948-3	FELECITO G. GARRIDO	PUROK KATILINGBAN, BATA SUBD.,
			BACOLOD CITY, NEG OCCIDENTAL
2	03-8042242-1	JAMES L. HILARIO	64 NAT'L HI-WAY, SAN JOSE, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY 5300
3	33-1689866-0	NECITO B. COLINA JR	P2 A L23 B21 ANAHAW SILANG,SILANG CAVITE 4118
4	03-1065449-2	LEOPOLDO L. LAYOG	044 SAN ANDRES ST., MALANDAY, VALENZUELA CITY
5	03-3359888-1	ANDRES T. LUMACANG	265 LOWER MOONLIGHT, GREGORIA DE JESUS,
			GEN. MARIANO ALVAREZ, CAVITE
6	03-4145046-1	LUCIA P. CONCEPCION	ANGELUS, TOCLONG IST, IMUS, CAVITE 4103
7	06-0917172-5	MERLITA B. PINOTE	BUAYA, BAYANIHAN, LAPU-LAPU CITY, CEBU 6105
8	33-1183821-4	RONALD DEE G. ALSA	249 B6 L3 AREA I, SAN MARTIN DE PORRES,
			SJDM, BULACAN 3023
9	09-0931578-6	BONIFACIO C. GULTIA	26 DAU ST., P8, DONA ASUNCION VILLAGE,
			SASA, DAVAO CITY 8000
10	03-3684655-6	NOEL R. DUMARAN	13-A SAN PEDRO ST., MOLO ILOILO CITY 5000
11	09-0180832-7	ISIGFREDO S. DEL CARMEN	1283 MAXIMO VILLAGE, MANKILAM, TAGUM CITY 8100
12	06-0268537-3	ROLANDO MIRAMBEL	PAG-ASA, OAS, TOLEDO CITY
13	08-0144498-8	DIVINA B. BALQUIN	318 RAMONCHITA ST., APOVEL SUBD.,
			BULUA, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
14	03-3658991-0	ALMA L. CALAYAG	04 SAPPHIRE ST., STA. MONICA CMPD.,
			DALANDANAN, VALENZUELA CITY 1443
15	33-1006123-1	GLORIA S. SERUELA	48 CEBU ST., PAEL SUBD., PROJ. 6, QC 1200
16	03-1104168-0	DOMINADOR G. DAVID	MALIGAYA ST., CUTCUT, ANGELES CITY 2009
17	03-5623140-0	ONOFRE M. SALVILLA	TAMBOBO ST., DUMANGAS, ILOILO CITY 5006
18	03-8910462-7	RENATE T. ESPANTO	B13 L5 SEAMENS VILL, PIELA, DASMARINAS, CAVITE 4114
19	33-1790363-5	VIOLETA V. VALENZUELA	469-C ANTIPOLO ST., SAMPALOC, MANILA 1015
20	01-0612685-9		B5 L4 BAGONG SILANGAN, COUNTRY HOMES, QC 1119
21	06-0802811-2	MELIA Q. BASAN	P. RODRIGUEZ ST LOOC, LAPULAPU CITY CEBU 6015
22	03-1373704-4	ANDRONICO P. TUMULAK, JR	244 UPPER BALITE ST., PARANG, MARIKINA CITY
23	03-1934232-3	EUFRONIO G. BORELA	L1A LOLOGNE ST., MERCEDES EXEC. VILL.,
		ELISEA D. TE	BGY. SAN MIGUEL, PASIG CITY 1600
24	03-3136247-5		3060 INT. 7 COR. ST., BACOOD, STA. MESA, MANILA
25	03-0617653-1	ELISEO E. LINDO	4829 ANG BUHAY ST., STA MESA, MANILA
26	03-2424986-4	VICENTE A. RECARE	B3 L18-B PHASE I, CAMELLA SPRVIL 3, MOLINO, BACOOR, CAVITE
27	03-7626168-3	MARIANO V. SAN JUAN	18 ATHENS ST., CIUDAD GRANDE EXEC. VILL.,
		ALICIA U. TAMONDONG	ROSARIO, PASIG CITY 1600
28	03-1907266-4		FD 5A BERYL ST., RIO TUBA BATARAZA, PALAWAN
29	03-3550509-2	DEMETRIO D. MANUAL	CARMELITE, SAN LAZARO, TALA, CALOOCAN CITY 1427
30	03-2889363-0	GERONDINA B. ORDIZ	B98 L36 PHASE IV MABUHAY, DASMARINAS, CAVITE 4114
31	01-0569957-8	EFREN M. DE JESUS	B-Z L-Z PHASE IB, DIAMOND ST., PLEASANT HILLS,
		MANUEL D. ESTACIO	SJDM, BULACAN 2330
32	05-0010548-9		45 ADRIATICO ST., STA. CRUZ, BAAO, CAMARINES SUR
33	07-0928117-5	CARLOS B. BAYOS	17TH RIZAL LOPEZ JAENA, BRGY. 27,
		JOSE M. HICETA	BACOLOD CITY, NEG OCC. 6100
34	03-2684434-8		B5 L4 MEADOWVILLE SUBD., BRGY. PAGASA, IMUS, CAVITE
35	03-8176881-2	FELIMON Y. SARCON JR	14 SANCHEZ ST., TINAJEROS, MALABON CITY 1404
36	03-2422964-8	MA MARIE ANN R. TAN	L2 B10 MAXSVILL, MOLINO IV, BACOOR, CAVITE 4102
37	33-0763506-5	LETICIA O. ELNAR	B8 L38 ACACIA SPRINGVILLE CTR., MOLINO,
		RONEL D. CUARTERO	BACOOR, CAVITE 4102
38	02-0202943-6		19A J. ASINAS ST., STA. LUCIA, SAN JUAN, MM
39	33-1282487-4	ROBERTO I. QUIAMBAO	710-B DOS CASTILLAS, SAMPALOC, MLA 1008
40	33-1021549-8	ABNER U. DE LEON	983 J. RIZAL ST., POBLACION, MAKATI CITY 1210
41	03-6925961-5	ROBERTO F. DIN	40 BLK 38 WELFAREVILLE COMPOUND, MANDALUYONG CITY
42	33-1182651-4	MARCIAL C. ACIDO	50 OMEGA HOMES, OMEGA AVE., WEST FAIRVIEW, QC 1118
43	03-7971042-9	MAILA C. LAINEZ	50-C LIGAS III, BACOOR, CAVITE
44	01-0680156-9	FLORDELIZA T. VASQUEZ	PRK 1 AGWAHAN 2, BAGUMBAYAN, TAGUIG MM 1604
45	03-9241259-7	GAUDENCIO R. GAJULTOS	2117-B CRISOLITA ST., SAN ANDRES BUKID, MANILA 1017
46	07-0571921-4	MA. CORAZON T. EVANGELISTA	CUBAY BACUYANGAN, HINOBAAN, NEG. OCCIDENTAL
47	03-3855468-4	ANTERO E. OLIMBA JR	1203 ESGUERRA ST., POBLACION, PULILAN BULACAN 3005
48	33-1246923-9	EDDY B. TEOXON	8-D DIAMOND ST., VILLA LUNINGNING SUBD.,
		MARS R. SAYSON	TALON 1, LAS PINAS CITY 1747
49	09-0112393-4		10 DAVIDSON ST., WBB, OLONGAPO CITY
50	33-4256192-9	MATERNIDAD R. SAMSON	7 MARINA ST., SAN ANTONIO, CANDON CITY, ILOCOS SUR 2710
51	03-2677311-8	JENNIFER I. CLEMENO	1169 SUNRISE VILLAGE, KAUSWAGAN,
		ALEX P. DY	CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY 9000

SEQ #	SS NUMBER	MEMBER'S NAME	ADDRESS
52	03-3173060-9	JAIME V. DIZON	44 PRK 5, SAN ILDEFONSO, MAGALANG, PAMPANGA 2011
53	04-0540032-8	MENANDRO M. ILAGAN	STA. RITA, APLAYA, BATANGAS CITY 4200
54	03-5213252-9	ROMULO R. VILLANUEVA JR	224 JOSHUA ST., ANNEX 41, BRGY. SUN VALLEY, PARANAQUE CITY 1711
55	05-0296571-1	ELDA C. TUAZON	B1 L17C GUYABANO SPRINGVILLE 3, MOLINO, BACOOR, CAVITE 4102
56	03-5612322-0	ESTANISLAO N. DUMAT OL	BRGY. OYUNGAN, MIAG-AO, ILOILO
57	03-2915034-3	PRECILA A. TOLENTINO	2711-D OROQUIETA ST., STA CRUZ, MANILA 1003
58	33-1411309-1	DOMINIQUE C. SOLIVEN	L3E STA. TERESITA ST., BO. KAPITOLYO, PASIG CITY
59	04-3115184-5	JOSELITO M. PEREDA	DULONG BAYAN, MOGPOG, MARINDUQUE 4901
60	08-0606501-6	MARJORIE JOAN C. ABEJO	041 A. ABEJO ST., TAGOLOAN, MISAMIS ORIENTAL
61	33-1115105-6	WINSTON M. GINEZ	23 ATLANTIC DRIVE, PACIFIC GRAN VILLA SUB., STO. NINO, PQUE CITY 1700
62	03-3376448-2	RODULFO D. ALON	BLK E4 L6 SN MATEO, DASMA CAVITE 4115
63	03-2261659-6	ANTONIO E. ESCARIO	ROQUE II CMPD., HIMLAYAN RD., P. TAMO, TANDANG SORA, QC
64	03-3837314-0	MA ENOLITA S. FAUSTINO	B4 L12 ALIDO SUBD., BULIHAN, MALOLOS CITY 3000
65	03-1654974-7	ELENITA S. BARRANCO	17-A BRYANT ST FAIRMONT PARK SUBD., NORTH FAIRVIEW, QC
66	33-4110603-9	ROSALINDA L. NODA	54-Z IGNACIA ST., STA. QUITERIA, CALOOCAN CITY 1402
67	03-7360162-8	JOSE B. CUCHAPIN	CAMPOS ANAO, TARLAC 2310
68	03-9865153-0	JAIME S. MENDOZA	205 SAN JOSE ST., BRGY 2, CARMONA, CAVITE 4116
69	04-3033540-0	ANALYN C. AVECILLA	BELVEDERE, PARADAHAN, TANZA, CAVITE
70	33-1260416-2	LANIE R. MAROLLANO	98 ROXAS BLVD., SN CARLOS CITY, PANGASINAN 2420
71	03-3576936-2	LUZVIMINDA I. GUNABE	BLK 33 LOT 17 KATARUNGAN VILL., ARELLANO ST., MUNTINLUPA CITY 1770
72	01-0771170-0	RAYMUND S. DADPAAS	B6 L4 P7 ACM HOMES, ALAPAN IA, IMUS, CAVITE 4103
73	03-4924881-1	FORTUNATO REMOTIGUE	012 MASUSO, PANDI, BULACAN 3014
74	07-0230995-7	MERLITA O. BATILES	36-A 5 DE JUNIO ST., BRGY-195, NAIA, PASAY CITY
75	02-3012754-6	CLARITA B. DIOLAZO	F TANEDO ST. COR. ZAPIRO ST., SN NICOLAS, TARLAC CITY
76	33-1737405-7	HAZEL H. RODRIGUEZ	30 PENIDA ST. ZONE 2, SIGNAL VILLAGE, TAGUIG CITY 1635
77	03-3498817-3	ALEXANDER L. RAROGAL	47 BALDOMERO ST., COLONG II, VALENZUELA CITY 1445
78	33-3100172-0	SAHLEE C. GUTIERREZ	1371 STA MONICA, HAGONOY, BULACAN 3002
79	03-8973891-2	CARMEN T. AMACIO	38 REGATTA DR REGATTA CLASSIC, ANABU, IMUS, CAVITE 4103
80	33-1399645-5	LEOPOLDO M. AGBIN JR	BLK39 LOT2 P5 CITIHOMES RESORTVILLE, DASMARINAS, CAVITE 4114
81	03-1751945-9	LUCYLENE M. CERVANTES	422 9TH ST., SOUTH DRIVE, GUINGONA SUBD., BUTUAN CITY
82	02-1317713-1	DANTE V. CORONIA	TEACHERS VILLAGE, BAYAMBANG, PANGASINAN 2423
83	02-0070840-3	MAXIMO G. DOMINGO	SINGAT, GERONA, TARLAC
84	03-3996370-8	ATILANO P. BENUSA	4-C BAGONG NAYON, GITNA, NORTHVILLE, ANTIPOLO CITY 1870
85	03-2850769-6	PABLO T. BACUD	TACLOBAN II, LUCANIN, MARIVELES, BATAAN 2105
86	03-2747508-8	EMILIANO V. BACCAY	55 PAHO STREET, QUIRINO 2A, PROJ. 2, QUEZON CITY
87	03-3254207-4	LAURA A. GUDAY	1445 LANZONES ST., GARCIA SUBD., SAN ANTONIO, BINAN, LAGUNA 4024
88	03-2593341-2	FORTUNATO. CORTEL	PHASE 1-C, B32 L5 SAN LORENZO SOUTH, STA. ROSA, LAGUNA
89	02-0271715-9	ROSITA F. MONTA	Q7 9C MALAYA, MARIVELES, BATAAN
90	03-6839358-5	BRAULIO F. FAELDONEA	3192 INT28 PILAR ST., BGY. 199, MANUGUIT, TONDO, MLA
91	03-3712901-0	NECITA P. SILANGCRUZ	105 PRINZA, GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE 4107
92	02-1278496-5	LEILANEE D. QUANGUEY	PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BAGUIO CITY 2600
93	33-0508114-5	DIGNA L. GARCIA	665 6TH AVENUE BALTAZAR ST., GRACE PARK, CALOOCAN CITY 1406
94	03-7348427-2	TERESITA C. NUNAG	63 PARAISO ST., SINDALAN, SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
95	06-0358642-6	ERNESTO H. PEPITO	LAMAC CONSOLACION, CEBU 6001
96	03-2484597-0	JESUS L. ABDON	B1 L14 ST. AGUSTINE, MARICABAN, PASAY CITY 1300
97	04-3029898-7	ERIC T. CASTILLO	BRGY. BUROL, CALAMBA CITY 4029
98	33-2072875-5	IDA S. SOGUILON	70 PHILLIPS EXTENSION, MANOLO FORTICH, BUKIDNON
99	03-1533068-5	MANUEL A. SUENO	320 S. DE GUZMAN ST., PARADA, VALENZUELA CITY
100	03-4747788-8	SHIRLEY D. CALUCIN	BLK 11 L1 MA. LUISA SUBD., CAMARIN, PASAY CITY 1400

FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL THE MEMBER LOANS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, TEL. NO. 920-6401 LOCALS 5131 TO 5135.

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. AUCTION SALE on DEC. 12, 2005, Mon. at 10:30. 11:00, 12:30, and 1:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, Respectively July 15 - Aug. 12, 2005.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer
(PDI - Dec. 03, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Yukio Hamano has been extrajudicially settled by his only heir, Tadashi Hamano before Notary Public of Paranaque City,, Tomas S. Macasaet, Sr., as per Doc#67, Page#14, Book#I; Series of 2005.
(PDI - Nov. 26, Dec. 3 &10, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late Lilia M. Roque consisting of her rights and interests on real properties covered by TCT Nos. 420182 and 70667 located at Merville Park and Barrio Ibayo, Paranaque City respectively, was extrajudicially distributed among her heirs, Honesto P. Roque, Honesto Roque Jr., Hernani Roque, Joy Roque Hensey & Maria Juvy R. Libao, by means of a public instrument executed on Nov. 30, 2005 and ratified before Atty. Edgar F. Chavez, Notary Public, for and in Makati City as per Document No. 109, Page No. 23, Book No. I, Series of 2005.
(PDI-Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851

Garments, P20 Up 412-8673

I NEED MEDICINES HOSP SUPPLIES & EQUIPT ANY QNTY TXT/CALL 09205398509 CHRISTINE

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

NEED SIDELINE! Set your Hrs! P/F up to 20K/mo 376-2642 & 44

National Power Corporation

December 01, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of New Vehicles
(REVISED)

1. The **NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC)**, now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above supply.
2. It intends to apply the sum as shown below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), Internal Cash Generation (ICG):

Schedule	Description/Specification	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract (Pesos)
I	4 x 4 Pick-Up, four-wheel pick-up type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc, diesel	8 units	10,320,000.00
II	4 x 2 Pick-Up, four-wheel pick-up type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc, diesel	8 units	7,584,000.00
III	Passenger Van 4 x 2, four-wheel Van type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc, diesel	7 units	7,546,000.00
IV	Asian Utility Vehicle, Wagon type 4 x 2, four-wheel Van type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc, diesel	30 units	27,000,000.00
V	Light Truck, six-wheel vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 7000cc, diesel	5 units	7,500,000.00
		Total	59,950,000.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of RA 9184. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00, either in cash or manager's check. The bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. Pre-Bid Conference shall be at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2005, Pahiyas Function Room, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at designated venue on the bidding date. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount stated in the Tender Document. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders. Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned
8 Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD), NPC Building, Diliman Quezon City at Tel. No. 922-1622 or visit NPC (www.napocor.gov.ph) website.

(Sgd.) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
Senior Vice President
& Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Dec. 3, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

URGENTLY NEEDED
CIVIL ENGINEER
W/ Exp. and Pref. Lic.
Tel.: 427-2808 / 427-8297

Wanted Bush Boy Baby's Canteen 8993679•09195746242

FEMALE

Homecare Nurse Single 5333495

LICENSED LADY DENTIST
preferably UE graduate
Call JAMES 09178233345

Service Crew 0917-5403706

MALE/FEMALE

HIRING! CALL CENTER AGENTS
FAX -RESUME AT 879-8272

Lady Dentist (F) Dental Tech(M) Robinsons Nova 9301797

Pharmacist 6915513 09178512031

WANTED ACCOUNTANCY GRAD w/ or w/out License w/ Exp. Submit your Resume at U-4443 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower Chino [illegible]

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Female, not over 28 years old
Accounting graduate, preferably C.P.A.
Precise and able to work with minimal supervision
Excellent in oral and written communication

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Female, 20 to 25 years old
Work experience is not necessary
Finished in any 4-year course
Must be computer literate
Excellent in oral and written communication

Please submit your resumé personally or by e-mail to:

SANDIGAN SHIP SERVICES, INC.
9th floor Salustiana D. Ty Tower
Paseo De Roxas cor. Perea St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 894-2821 to 24
Email: rommel.sandigan@dsp.net.ph

For Immediate Hiring in Lipa, Batangas

STORE MANAGER/SENIOR SUPERVISOR/CASHIERS

1 Experience in retail store operations and knowledgeable in POS, MS Word & MS Excel will be an advantage
2. He or she must be energetic, self motivated, honest and can work with minimum supervision as well as willing to work long hours.

SEND your resumé with: latest photo, contact numbers, address, & desired salary to:

The VICE PRESIDENT
Shelter Systems Development Corporation
Sampaguita Homes-LIPA,
Brgy. Sampaguita, Lipa City, Batangas 4217

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144•722-1155

National Power Corporation

November 25, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Vehicles

1. The **NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION** (NPC), now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above supply.
2. It intends to apply the sum as shown below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), Internal Cash Generation (IGC).

Schedule	Description / Specification	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract (Pesos
I	4 x 4 Pick-Up, four-wheel pick-up type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc, diesel	8 units	10,320,000.00
II	4 x 2 Pick-Up, four-wheel pick-up type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc, diesel	8 units	7,584,000.00
III	Passenger Van 4 x 2, four-wheel Van type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc diesel.	7 units	7,546,000.00
IV	Asian Utility Vehicle, Wagon type 4 x 2, four-wheel Van type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc diesel	30 units	27,000,000.00
V	Light Truck, six-wheel vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 7000cc diesel	5 units	7,500,000.00
VI	Passenger Bus, six-wheel vehicle, not exceeding 60 seating cap. Displacement & fuel use are to be provided later	2 units	14,000,000.00
		TOTAL	73,950,000.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of RA 9184. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from BCSD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00, either in cash or manager's check. The bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. Pre-Bid conference shall be on December 6, 2005, Solarium Function Hall, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at designated venue on the bidding dates. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount stated in the Tender Document. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders. Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned.
8. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD). NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. No. 922-1622 or visit NPC (www.napocor.gov.ph) website.

(Sgd.) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
Senior Vice President
& Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 26 & Dec. 3, 2005)

SALE OF PNB SHARES TO SMALL LOCAL INVESTORS

Pursuant to Republic Acts No. 7181, 7661 and 7886 (Privatization Laws), the Joint Technical Committee, duly constituted by the Department of Finance and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (collectively "Government"), hereby announces the sale to Small Local Investors (SLIs) of at least 20,670,435 Government-owned shares in Philippine National Bank (PNB) under the following terms, and the Terms and Conditions stated in the Application Form:

Available Purchase Lot : **100 to a maximum of 2,200 shares (in multiples of 100 shares)**
Price per share : **P43.77 (pursuant to RA 7886)**
Offer Period : **13 December 2005 to 15 February 2006**
Eligible Investors : **OFWs, private & government employees, small farmers/fisherfolks cooperatives, pension, retirement, provident and other similar funds**

Deadline for submission of Application Forms: 15 February 2006 at 12:00 noon

Application forms and information sheet are available at the following offices/websites:

Department of Finance
Mr. Eric Dural
Privatization Office
Tel. No.: (02) 524-1633
www.dof.gov.ph

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.
Ms. Rossana V. Castalla
Risk Assessment & Resolution Dept. 4
Tel. No.: (02) 841-4265 to 73
www.pdic.gov.ph

Selected PNB Branches:

Metro Manila
Ms. Elizabeth S. Javier
PNB Financial Center
Macapagal Blvd. Pasay City
Tel. 526-3247; 573-4452

Ms. Perla P. Jocson
Cubao Branch
Aurora Blvd. Cubao, Q.C.
Tel. 911-2915 to 19

Bleslida S. Reyes
Ali Mall Branch
P. Tuazon, Cubao, Q.C.
Tel. 912-1655

Northern Luzon
Mr. Efren B. Dumaual
Dagupan Branch
AB Fernandez Ave. Dag.
Tel. (075) 522-8746/ 515-6018/515-5242

Visayas
Mr. Manuel C. Grafilo
Cebu Branch
Cor. Jakosalem & MC Briones Sts. Cebu City
Tel. (032) 253-8537/ 255-0410 / 255-1704

Southern Luzon
Ms. Elizabeth D. Duyan
Lucena Branch
Quezon Ave., Lucena City
Tel. (042) 710-3703/ 710-2060 / 710-3972

Mindanao
Mr. Expedito B. Zambas
Cagayan de Oro Branch
Corrales Ave. corner T. Chavez, CDO
Tel. (088) 726500 729723 / 726010

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DESIGN, SUPPLY, FABRICATION, INSTALLATION, ERECTION TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF DELUGE WATER SPRAY FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM AND OTHER RELATED WORKS

Ref No.: PB051116-RM0103/PR No. SL1P-05-000011782

1. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the CY2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of **P7,881,158.00** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above requirement. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. TransCo now calls for the submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for **Design, Supply, Fabrication, Installation, Erection Testing And Commissioning Of Deluge Water Spray Fire Fighting System And Other Related Works.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract (at least Registered as **"Small B"**, Category **"C & D"** for Fire Protection Works), have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested bidders must secure their Eligibility Documents from **December 3, 2005 to December 16, 2005** at the addess below upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND pesos (P1,000.00)**. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents together with the LOI shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **December 16, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the address below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. The contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City on or before **10:00 a.m.** to **December 16, 2005**.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **TWO THOUSAND pesos (P2,000.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** of **December 28, 2005** to **January 23, 2006.**
6. TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at **2:00 p.m.** of **January 11, 2006** at the, Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **2:00 p.m.** of **January 24, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) or at least **P78,811.58**
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 ½%) or at least **P118,217.37**
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent.(2 ½%) or at least **P197,028.97**
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%) or at least **P7,881,158.00**

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be at **2:00 p.m.** of **January 24, 2006** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening.

8. The Works shall be completed within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from receipt of the approved contract/notice to proceed.
9. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)
Materials Management Division (MMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building,
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City

Tel. No.: (632) 981-2205/981-2242
Email: jzdarilay@transco.ph
rmmabulay@transco.ph
Fax No. (632) 922-8432/921-6753
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Dec. 3 & 9, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The assets being offered on an **"as-is, where-is"** basis, at the Indicative Prices presented below. Sealed offers shall be received at 3:00 p.m. on the following schedules at PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Description	Indicative Price (In Philippine Currency)	Date of Submission Of Offers
1995 Suzuki Vitara - Plate No. SFD 908 white wagon, 4 cylinder gasoline engine, 4-speed manual transmission, complete with spare tire, tools and accesories	190,000	December 13, 2005
1995 Nissan Vannette - Plate No. SFD 788 red wide body, 4 cylinder gas engine, 5-speed manual, complete with spare tire, tools and accessories	130,000	December 13, 2005
1987 Nissan Sentra - Plate No. SCH 990 blue 4 door sedan 4 cylinder gas engine, 5-speed transmission, complete with spare tire, tools and accessories	45,000	December 13, 2005
Prime White Cement Corp. Land (425 sq.m., TCT No. N-268228) with improvements located at No. 95 East Maya Drive, Philam Homes Subd., Quezon City	7,437,000	December 15, 2005

Interested parties may secure the Sale Documents from the PMO Marketing Department at non-refundable fees of P200.00 for each vehicle and P500.00 for Prime White. A Gate Pass shall be issued to interested parties upon request.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department.

For more information, please call Ms. Melinda B. Cortez and Ms. Hazel S. Mamuad of the PMO Marketing Department at telephone nos. 892-2145 or 818-4733 or 818-8305

(PDI – December 3, 4 & 5, 2005)

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afp retirement and separation benefits system
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 911-4071 to 80

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Procurement of a Contract for the Underground Electrification of the Riviera Property in Silang, Cavite, Including the Construction of Street Lamps

1. The **AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS)**, through the Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the Governing Board intends to apply the sum of **Ninety Four Million Six Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php 94,600,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Underground Electrification of the Riviera Property in Silang, Cavite, Including the Construction of Street Lamps. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The AFP-RSBS now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for Construction of the RSCCI Main Clubhouse, consisting of three (3) contiguous buildings: a Sports Club, a Health Club and a Pavilion situated at By-pass Road, Aguinaldo Hi-way in Silang, Cavite. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs **on or before 5:00 P.M. of 16 December 2005 at CMA-C RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **04 January 2006 at 9:05 A.M.** at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the **AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on or before 9:00 A.M. of 04 January 2006.**
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the AFP-RSBS and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Twenty Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php 20,000.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on **06 January 2006.**
7. The AFP-RSBS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **07 February 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below **on or before 20 February 2006 at 9:00 A.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit and in an amount of **Nine Hundred Forty Six Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php 946,000.00)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **20 February 2006 at 9:05 A.M. at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on 20 February 2006.
9. The AFP-RSBS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System
AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 9114071 local 266/289/281

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN C ACOSTA**
Vice Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Dec. 3 & 10, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Proposed NFA Central Office Renovation Works

The *National Food Authority through its COF for 2005* intends to apply the sum of P20 M being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Renovation of the Proposed NFA Central Office.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *National Food Authority* now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for *Renovation of the Proposed NFA Central Office.* Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before *December 19, 2005, 5:00 p.m.* at National Food Authority, Matimyas Bldg., *101 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City* and secure the Eligibility Documents there from. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents *December 21, 2005, 10:00 a.m.* at *BAC Secretariat*, National Food Authority, Matimyas Bldg., *101 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.* Only those Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from *BAC Secretariat*, National Food Authority, Malimyas Bldg., *101 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.* on *December 22, to 23, 2005.*

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by eligible bidders on the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P20,000.00. The method of payment will be in cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

The National Food Authority will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on *December 27, 2005, 10:00 a.m.* at the following address: National Food Authority Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., *101 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.*

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 9:45 a.m. on *January 9, 2006.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount In Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *January 9, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg.,* 101 *E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives

1. *Interested bidders must have relevant experience in installation of gypsum board ceiling electrical rewiring with provision for air conditioning units, lighting and other auxiliary requirements, and installation of vinyl tiles.*
2. Renovation works must be completed in 90 calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed.
3. The *National Food Authority* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Procuring Entity	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	*101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No	*(632) 712-3341 loc. 8923 or 8520*
E-mail Address	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No.	*(632) 712-0454*
Website	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair

(PDI - Dec. 3 & 10, 2005)

LIGHT
RAIL
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

ITB No. 11-102-05

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites accredited and/or eligible suppliers/contractors, to bid for the item listed below:

PR No.	Qty	Item/Description	Approved Budget
P-450-05	1 lot	Supply and Installation of Local Area Network (LAN) at Line 1 Depot as per attached Terms of Reference	Php4,054,158.15

Bid documents can be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City starting **December 05 to 14, 2005** during regular office hours from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos** (Php1,500.00).

For the purpose of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **December 15, 2005, Thursday, 10:30 a.m.,** at LRTA Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City.

The BAC Secretariat shall receive sealed bids not later than **December 29, 2005, Thursday at 9:00 A.M.** and shall then be publicly opened immediately thereafter at LRTA Line 2 Cafeteria, Santolan, Pasig City.

Bids shall not be considered without the presence of the supplier/bidder or its authorized representative.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be the most advantageous to the Government.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Dec. 3, 2005)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte, PHILIPPINES 2913
Tel. No. (077) 784-75-46 & 47; 784-71-26 & ☎ Fax No. (077) 784-7125

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND FOR BIDS

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. has applied for a loan from the National Electrification Administration for the procurement of brand new, 7620/240 volts copper to copper windings distribution transformers for its system loss reduction program.

The items to be procured are:

20 units 15 KVA; 20 units 25 KVA; 16 units 37.5 KVA; 15 units 50 KVA and 5 units 75 KVA. The delivery time shall be within 30 days from notice of award.

The approved total budget is P3,848,000.00. Any bid that is over and above the approved budget per item will automatically be rejected.

Interested suppliers may obtain their pre-qualification forms and bid documents from the INEC main office starting December 5 until December 14, 2005.

Pre-qualification documents must be received by this office not later than December 16, 2005. Only those pre-qualified shall be invited to bid for the project.

INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expense or loss that the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to INEC.

(Sgd.) **RENATO A. BALINTEC, PEE**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – December 3 & 4, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
Partial Completion of the Construction of the Registry of Deeds Building of Davao City

The Land Registration Authority (LRA), through the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) No. C-98-03651 dated November 24, 1998, intends to apply the amount of **FIVE MILLION TWO HUNDRED TWELVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN & 63/100 (P5,212,587.63)** the same being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the partial completion of the construction of:

Project	Location	PCAB License	Contract duration
RD Bldg. Davao City	A Pichon cor. Bolton St., Davao City	Medium "A"	4 mos.

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

LRA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the partial completion of the construction of the Registry of Deeds Building of Davao City. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before **December 5-8, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the **BAC Secretariat, 5/F LRA Building, East Ave., cor. NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED (P500.00) PESOS. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on **December 14, 2005**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding document.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents to the BAC Secretariat at the address stated above, on **December 9-14, 2005** at 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Land Registration Authority and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on **December 21-27, 2005.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: THREE THOUSAND (P3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before **December 21-27, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

The LRA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **December 28, 2005,** 10:00 a.m. at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 5/F LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on January 9, 2006, 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall then follow after each submission on **January 9, 2006.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

LRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

17 November 2005 at Quezon City

(Sgd.) **RONALD A. ORTILE**
Chairman
LRA Bids and Awards Committee on Infrastructure
5/F LRA Building
East Avenue corner NIA Road,
Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax No 9244733

(PDI - November 19 & December 3 2005)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
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☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
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SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

JOSE V. LAGAC SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 01, 2005 at the age of 75.

His bereaved wife **CONSUELO**; children **Marissa, Virgilio, Philip, Jose Jr.,** and **Mayet**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Alvarez Funeral Homes, Lopez Jaena St., Cavite City.

Please call or text 09178100202 for interment details.

"For God so loved the world. He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

ENGR. GUMERSINDO O. AGUSTIN

of Cabiao, Nueva Ecija and Talayan Village, Q.C.

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 1, 2005 at the age of 67.

His loving wife **Dra. Rosario Lucero-Agustin**; sons and daughters-in-law **Dr. Jose Alvin & Ma. Lourdes, Jose Arnel & Ma. Jocelyn, Jose Armin** and **Jose Arnold & Rowena**; grandchildren **Ian & Regie. Nico & Mela, Jango & Migue** and **Trina & Kevin**, sister and brother-in-law **Drs. Erlinda** and **Rogelio Martinez**; niece **Beth** and nephew **Joey**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Chapel B-8, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

He will be laid to rest at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Our Dearly
Beloved Papa

Lt. Col. Antonio Margallo Basco

Philippine Air Force (Ret.)

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 30, 2005 at the age of 61.

His bereaved wife **ELVIE BAILON REAL**; children and children-in-law **Sheila** and **Boyet Balde**; **Carmela** and **Tennessee Carl Seguiban**; **Anna** and **Jose Reglo (Badz) Badana**; **Ma. Agnes** and **Marco Antonio**; and a sweet Lolo to his grandchildren **Regina Joy**; **Joshua**; **Jon Robin**; **Basti**; **Carlo** and **Tristan**.

His body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels Quezon Avenue, Quezon City and his remains will be transferred to San Jacinto, Masbate on Sunday, December 4, 2005.

Interment will be on December 8, 2005 at St. Peter Memorial Park, San Jacinto, Masbate.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

We design obituaries for free.

Our dearly beloved

SANTIAGO M. FAJARDO, DDM

of UP Village, Q.C. and Bulacan, Bulacan

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 1, 2005 at the age of 84.

His loving wife **Angelina Perea**; children **Ditas** and **Don Rebueno, Boying** and **Susan, Dondi** and **Jeannie, Edgar, Angelo** and **Vilma**; grandchildren **Miguel, Gem, Abbey, Nikka, JC, Joel, Joshua, James, John, Mico** and **Izzy**; brother **Danding**, sister-in-law **Esther**, nephews and nieces request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Ascension Chapel, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (Claret Church), UP Village, Q.C. and will be transferred to the family residence in San Nicolas, Bulacan, Bulacan on Monday, December 5, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Bulacan, Bulacan Catholic Cemetery.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS AND CLEAN-UP" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : **December 14, 2005**, 2:00 PM, Solarium, Ground Floor, Bldg.-1, NPC Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding for the sale of the following:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
	SCHEDULE I	
1	One (1) lot of Unserviceable, Used, Junk and Discarded Items consisting of Scrap Metals, Guy Wires (9-reels and loose bundles), Air-Con units, junk motor vehicles, Automotive Parts, T/L hardware, empty gas cylinders, used pipes, sole-plates, steel windows, steel skid, and discarded General Plant and Office Equipment. Located at Amlan TransCo Substation, Brgy. Tandayag, Amlan Town, Negros Oriental Province.	P 270,000.00 Per Lot
2	One (1) lot of Unserviceable, Used, and Scrap Items like Over-Head Ground wires, empty reels, empty drums, transmission line materials and Substation hardware, Junk General Plant and Office Equipment, engines and roofing materials. Located at Daraga TransCo Substation, Daraga Town, Albay Province.	P 495,000.00 Per Lot
	SCHEDULE II	
1	One (1) lot of Unserviceable Chemicals: Barite (Barium Sulfate), 8,010 bags (100 lbs/bag). Stored at Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant Complex, Tiwi, Albay Province	P 456,364.30 Per Lot

The official bid forms will be issued to all interested parties upon presentation of a valid Identification Card with picture (such as Company ID, Driver's License, Passport, etc.), valid Income Tax Return (latest) of the bidder, Tax Clearance Certificate of the bidder (BIR Form 17.14B) valid up to the date of public bidding and payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Fifty Pesos (P550.00) for each set of Bid Form/ Schedule. Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 p.m. of December 13, 2005.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH AND/OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL PRICE OFFER.
2. 2004 INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER, ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY.
3. VALID TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE OF THE BIDDER (BIR FORM 17.14B).

For further inquiries, interested parties may see or call Mr. ALFONSO D. ALDAY, Manager, WITAD Division at MMD, NPC Head Office, Quezon Avenue Corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City, with telephone number 924-5384.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI - Dec. 2, 3 & 4, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Regional Office Luzon Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY AND FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR INTEGRATED CARGO HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION III

The National Food Authority, NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City, through its 2006 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of P46,291,456.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of Integrated Cargo Handling Services at Subic Port for the year 2006. The volumes to be discharged are 80,000 MT of NFA imported grains and USPL 480 of 48,000 MT, more or less. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The scope of services to be bid for integrated services at Subic Port include Arrastre, Stevedoring, Wharfage, Hustling, Truckscaling, Opening/Closing of Hatches, Stand-By Charges, Import Entry documentation/Gate Pass, and other Port Services.

The application for eligibility and pertinent bidding documents can be secured from NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City, Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of P5,000.00 and submission of certified xerox copy each of the following documents:

1) DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2) Mayor's Permit (CY 2005) and Official Receipt;
3) Current registration certificate as cargo handler with SBMA;
4) Current Permit To Operate (PTO) issued by SBMA;
5) Current Certificate of good standing with SBMA;
6) Certification of at least three (3) years experience in grains (in bags) cargo handling/ unloading (pierside) for the past three (3) years issued by PPA or SBMA as principal contractor

The bidding of Integrated Services shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

PARTICULARS	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid Application and Bid Documents	November 29- December 15, 2005	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	December 16, 2005	10:00am
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	January 03, 2006	10:00am

The bidding of Integrated Cargo Handling Services at Subic Port shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City with Telephone Nos. (044)-463-1167, (044)-463-1168 and (044)-463-1233.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
RBAC Chairman/Asst. Regional Director

(PDI – Nov. 26 & Dec. 03, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publications, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Duke Ancheta and Antonette Martha	8 Marang St. Proj. 2, Quezon City	PIO ANCHETA SS# 03-7285413-3	July 29, 2003
2) Violeta Badenas	Unknown	SAMUEL BADINAS SS# 02-0215566-9	July 4, 2005
3) Lorna Bello	B22 L13c Phase IIA/B Area 3 SS3, Dagaldagatan, Malabon, M.M.	MAMERTO BELLO SS# 03-5895621-7	July 15, 2005
4) Remedios Pelecano	Quezon City	ROLANDO BOBO SS# 03-4821788-5	September 25, 2005
5) Anthony Michael S. Laureta	281 Zone 4 Sitio Pagkakaisa, Sucat, Muntinlupa City	RUTH S. CALIMBO SS# 33-7169384-2	December 10, 2004
6) Gloria Cabayacruz	Manicahan, Zamboanga City	JOSE CAMINS JR. SS# 10-0005665-5	July 5, 2005
7) Leliza Cenizal	Unknown	ROLANDO CARLOS SS# 03-9674463-0	July 5, 2005
8) Marilyn Devis	43-B Col. Bravo St., Zone 1, Signal Vill., Taguig, Metro Manila	DEVIS DEO SS# 03-5686815-8	February 3, 2005
9) Pancho Velez, Ismael Velez	Bacolod, Parang, Maguindanao	LAIDA V. DUMIAR SS# 09-1116859-4	September 8, 2003
10) Carmen Elec	Brgy. San Juan, Calamba City	EDUARDO ELEC SS# 03-4050391-1	June 26, 2005
11) Mariefrance Ferrer & Evonie Ferrer	Talospalang, Malasique, Pangasinan	BONIFACIO L. FERRER SS# 03-4453087-0	January 11, 2003
12) Numeriana & Juliana	Bo. Sto. Cruz, Diliman, Quezon City	FLORIO G. GABITO SS# 03-2301923-1	April 19, 2002
13) Lualhati Joel	Not Indicated	MELCHOR GARCIA SS# 03-3573716-1	July 30, 2005
14) Roberto & Ernesto Honorio	Hda. Luisita, Tarlac	PERFECTO HONORIO SS# 07-0178998-9	December 3, 1992
15) Margarita Calanuba	Unknown	AGAPITO D. IMBUD SS# 03-0752395-0	July 31, 2005
16) Marites L. Capinig	Dewey St., Calaocan, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya	WILFREDO C. MADERA SS# 33-2185785-8	December 25, 2004
17) Juanita Luzon	Brgy. San Agustin, Alaminos, Laguna	ANGEL O. MANJARES SS# 04-0318781-8	October 26, 2005
18) Victoria Matreo	Bonanz Creek, Parang, Mankina, M.M.	ANTERO MATREO SS# 03-0775231-0	April 29, 2005
19) Isabel Pablos Estepa	Canaynayan, Sta. Cruz, Zambalez	FULGENCIO M. MESIA SS# 02-0101940-5	October 20, 2004
20) Joan Ocampo Rosario Ocampo	Bk 4 L4 Camia St., CHES, Treca Martirez City Sto. Nino, Calumpit, Bulacan	ROLANDO OCAMPO SS# 03-1979805-8	July 8, 2005
21) Evelyn Lachica	Metro Manila	PATROCINIO REDONDO SS# 07-0532468-3	May 25, 2005
22) Dolores Vertrudes	Unknown	LAUREANO REYNO SS# 03-1823137-0	August 13, 2005
23) Magdalena Payumo	Calumpit, Bulacan	JOVITO SAMBILAY SS# 03-10730895	July 1, 2005
24) Mila Tesoreo	Not Indicated	BONIFACIO SANTIAGO SS# 03-1992407-1	September 8, 2005
25) Lydia Serafico	429 Hi-way 54, Pasay City	IRENEO SERAFICO SS# 03-0384016-1	August 2, 2005
26) Kevin/Keben Yee	Cadiz City, Negros Occidental	JOSE MOISES YEE SS# 03-5121758-4	February 7, 2004

— Nothing Follows —

(PDI - Dec. 3 & 10, 2005)

Natural Products Society sets confab Dec. 3

THE NATURAL PRODUCTS SOCIETY of the Philippines (NPSP) will hold its 10th Annual Convention on Dec. 3 at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City. With its theme, "Natural Products: Breakthroughs Beyond Folklore and Traditions," the convention will feature research papers on natural products chemistry, pharmacology, biochemistry, biotechnology, biodiversity and natural products development and commercialization. Also in the convention lineup are the keynote address on the "DOST Initiatives for Natural Health Products," by Dr. Jaime Montoya, executive director of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, plenary paper on "Cordyceps sinensis: Its Business Potentials," lectures by Dr. Bernadette L. Ramirez of UP Manila and Engr. Damilo P. Manayaga. The NPSP was founded in 1996 for the purpose of bringing into the forefront the researches actively involved in the study of chemistry, biology and the sustainable use of products derived from natural resources. The NPSP officers and board of directors for 2005-2007 are Dr. Mafel C. Ysrael, chair of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, UST, president; Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, dean of the School of Science and Engineering of the Ateneo De Manila University, vice –president; Dr. Maribel G. Nonato, director of the Research Center for the Natural Sciences, UST, secretary; Dr. Irene M. Villaseñor, director of the Institute of Chemistry, UP Diliman, treasurer; Dr. Alicia M. Aguinaldo, assistant dean of the College of Science, UST, auditor; Dr. Amelia Guevara, vice-president for Academic Affairs of the UP System, Dr. Evangeline C. Amor of the Institute of Chemistry, UP Diliman, Dr. Delia C. Ongtengco of Unilab, and Dr. Lourdes B. Cardenas, UP Los Baños, board of directors

Holy Family School Grand Alumni Homecoming

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL OF QUEZON CITY INVITES ALL ITS HIGH SCHOOL graduates to the 2005 Grand Alumni Homecoming on Dec. 3, 2005 at the HFS grounds, starts at 4 p.m. Admission is free for alumnae and their family. A fellowship dinner caps the evening. Dinner tickets will be sold at P100 only. For more details, please contact: Germaine Salvador at 0917-7913633 or Rowena Santos-Nevado at 921-6149.

PARA, SOPRA, BSP HOLD DIALOGUE

The members and officers of the Philippine Association of Realty Appraisers (Para) and the Society of Philippine Review Appraisers (Sopra) recently made a courtesy call on BSP officials headed by lawyer Rene Carreon, Managing Director of the loans, credit and asset management, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The delegation was headed by Carol Alvarez, Para president and realtor Vic Salinas, Sopra resident. Shown are (from left): lawyer Alejandro Q. Agustin, director for BSP Dept. of Loans and Credit; Carlyn Pangilinan, deputy director, BSP Asset Management; Amor Malahito, BSP deputy director, Dept. of Loans and Credit; Reynaldo Dawis, Para member; Ely Mañago, Para VP for external affairs; Federico Cuervo, chair, Cuervo Appraisers and vice president Sopra; Oscar Baraquero, Para auditor; realtor Mon Saromo, Sopra consultant; lawyer Rene Carreon; realtor Vic T. Salinas; Rogel Cayamanda, Sopra director; Janet Loza, Para VP for internal affairs and Rufino Gomez, BSP Department of Loans and Credit.

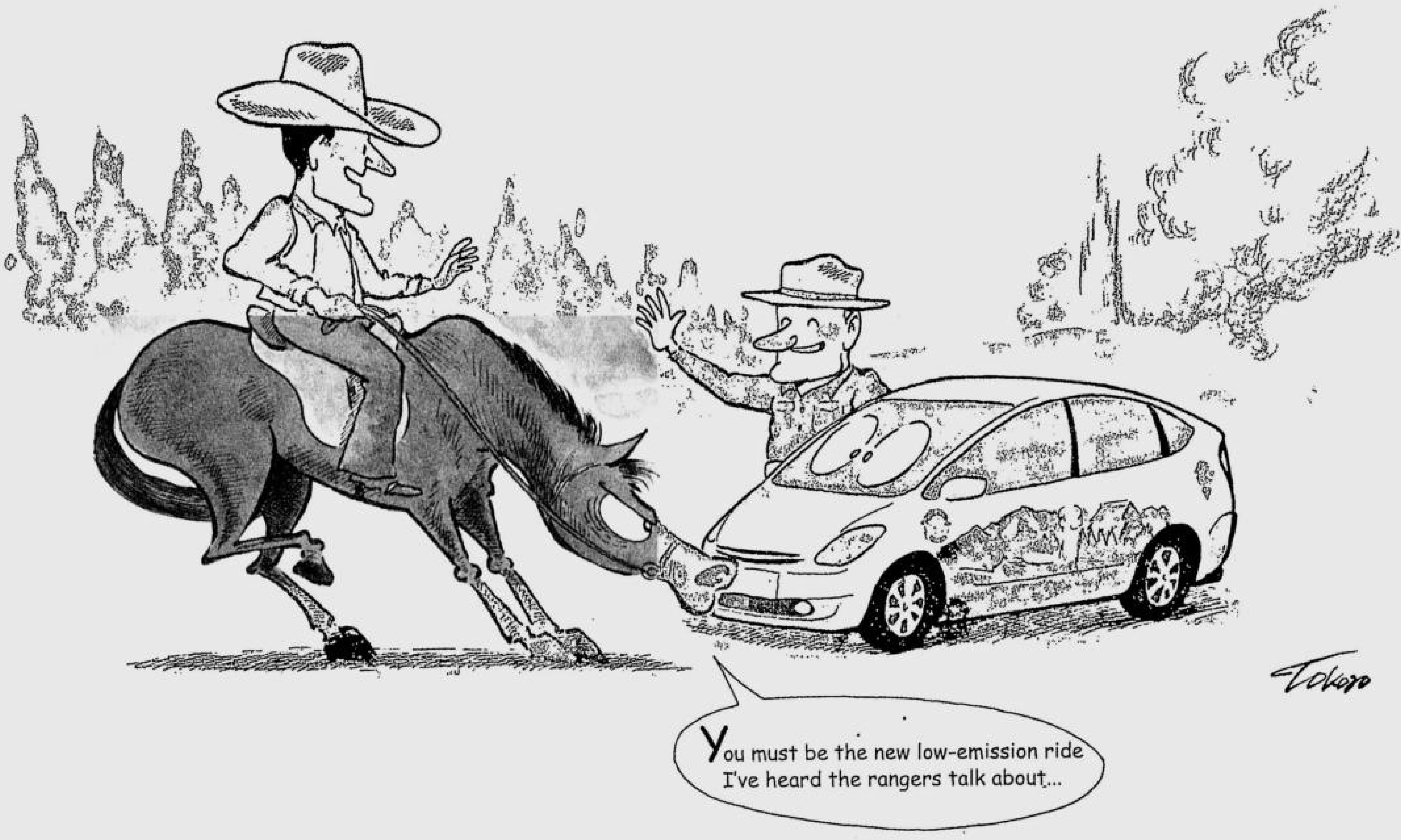
NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that BOI Certificate of Registration NO. AP VII 89-037 issued on 08 September 1989 as New Producer of Shrimps under the name of KEY MULTI AQUATIC INDUSTRIES CO. was lost.

(PDI – December 3, 2005)

Toyota Technology Journal

Hybrid Innovation 5

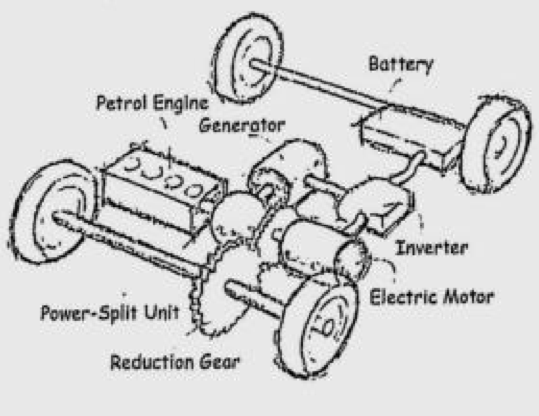

You must be the new low-emission ride I've heard the rangers talk about...
Tokoyo

A powerful drive to preserve the wilderness

With eco-friendly 35.5km/litre*1 performance that significantly reduces CO_2 emissions*2, the petrol-electric Toyota Prius is helping one of America's most famous national parks preserve its natural beauty.

Toyota hybrid drive—the first production-model drive system to actually recycle energy—is the drive system of the future

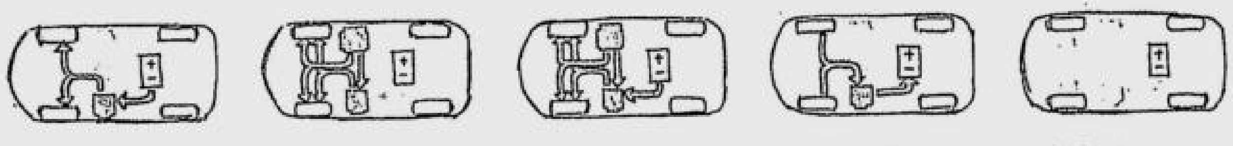
Toyota hybrid drive assures powerful standing-starts, and power to spare for exhilarating low-speed and high-speed acceleration. What's more, it uses regenerative braking to convert and recycle kinetic energy into electrical energy that can be stored in the vehicle's battery for later use. It's this advanced hybrid technology that makes the Prius a truly exciting and environmentally friendly car to drive.



The Toyota Hybrid System in Action

▨ Petrol Engine

▨ Electric Motor

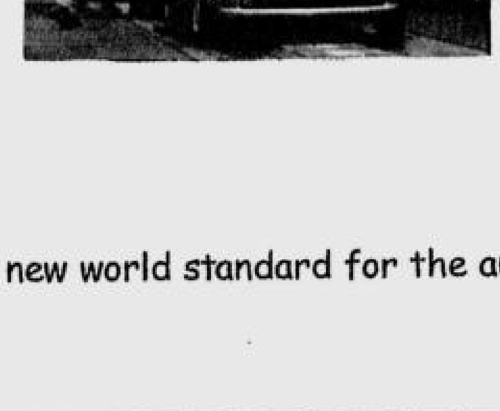


- **Standing Start & Low-Speed Acceleration** The electric motor draws power from the battery, assuring quick starts and superb low-speed acceleration.
- **Normal Driving** Power is provided by both the petrol engine and electric motor, continuously regulated to ensure maximum fuel efficiency.
- **Sudden Acceleration** The electric motor draws additional power from the battery to assure maximum power for exhilarating acceleration.
- **Braking & Deceleration** When the brakes are applied, the electric motor acts as a generator and converts kinetic energy into electricity that is used to charge the battery.
- **At Rest** When the vehicle is at rest, the engine and motor automatically switch off, reducing fuel consumption and emissions by eliminating wasteful engine idling.

Industry-leading fuel efficiency

2005 Mid-Size Car Fuel Economy Leaders*3

Model	MPG City	MPG Highway
Toyota Prius (Hybrid/AT)	**60**	**51**
Toyota Camry (A/T)	24	34
Mid-size Sedan A (A/T)	24	34
Mid-size.Sedan B (A/T)	24	34
Mid-size Sedan C	24	34



Prius sedan production line

Prius production to begin in China and North America

In China, production of the Prius is slated to begin this year. And to meet growing demand for hybrid cars in North America, we're getting ready to produce a hybrid version of the ever-popular Toyota Camry at our U.S. manufacturing plants in 2006.

Toyota hybrid technology — the new world standard for the automobile industry of tomorrow

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*1 35.5km/l Source: Japan Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

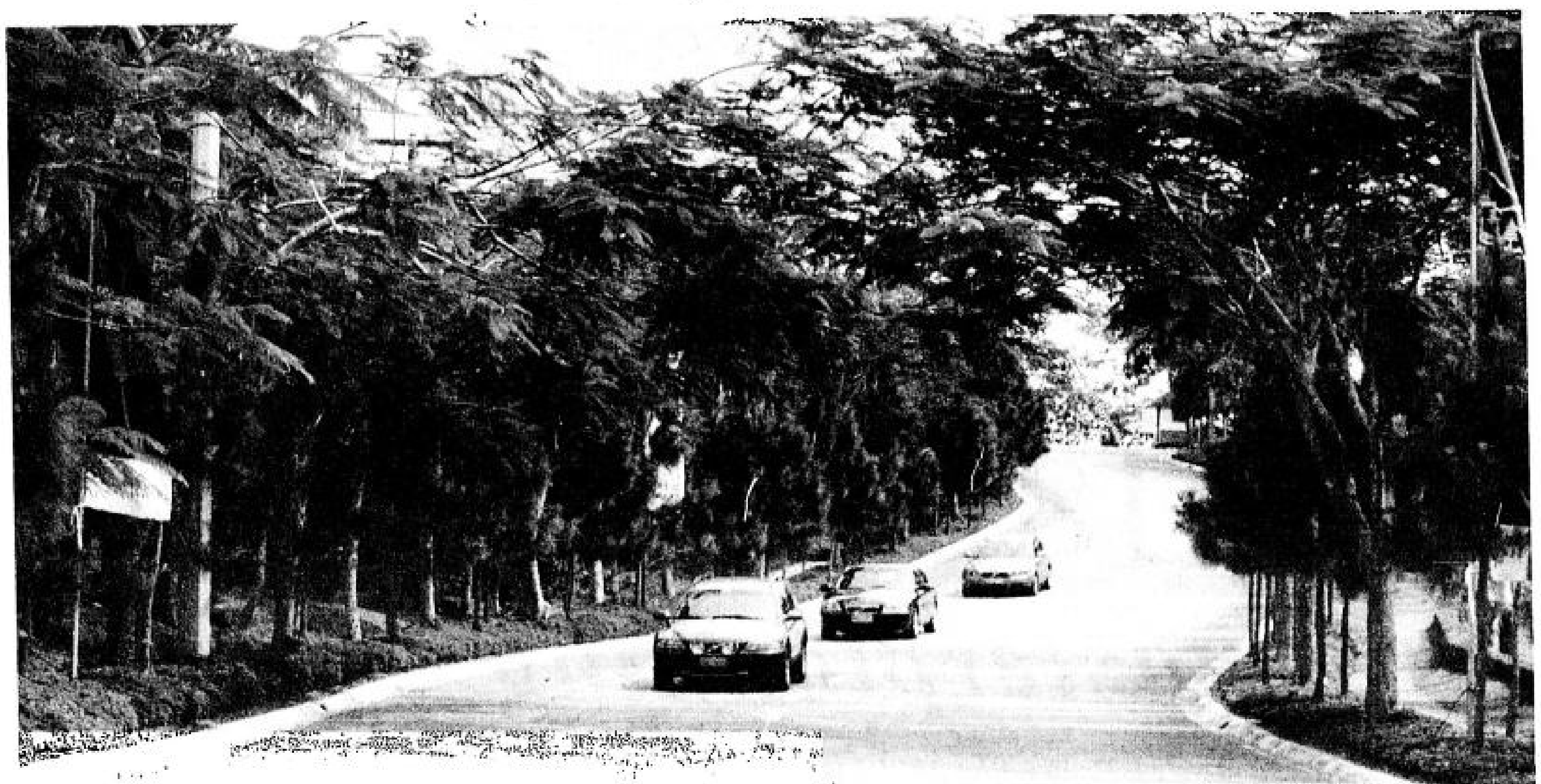
*2 The Toyota Prius produces approximately 50% less CO_2 than a conventionally powered 2-litre- class sedan with similar performance capabilities. (Based on in-house comparison tests between production-class Toyota Prius and Allion sedans conducted over a 20km course under controlled conditions.)

*3 Source: US Environmental Agency and Department of Energy Fuel Economy Guide

TOYOTA
moving forward ▶

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY



Swiss sanctuary, coffee farms in the south

By Tessa R. Salazar

NOT EVERYONE can go to Switzerland and romp around in a full-fledged Scandinavian designed car.

So Viking Cars, Volvo's exclusive distributor in the Philippines, made it half a world easier by taking passengers one recent morning to the closest thing to driving in Switzerland—a place in Tagaytay City called Crosswinds.

The place is dotted with more than 8,000 pine trees surrounding elegant chalets.

A group of women media drivers were given an opportunity to drive around this Swiss-inspired sanctuary marketed by property giant Brittany as the only pine estate south of Metro Manila. This activity formed part of a property tour around Tagaytay City jointly planned by Volvo and the Brittany Corp. Volvo provided its S40, S60, S60 T5, S80 2L and S80 preowned units.

This writer was assigned an S40, and even before reaching Tagaytay, the vehicle already gave her a whiff, feel and taste of things to come. The day was going to be "clean, fresh and green."

For starters, the dawn pearl blue S40 features an emission control technology that eliminates up to 98 percent of carbon monoxides, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from the exhaust gases with a special catalytic coating on the radiator, which also converts up to 75 percent of the harmful ground level ozone that passes through the radiator into pure oxygen.

The Crosswinds location also promised that continued fresh and clean feel once the group stepped outside the safe confines of the cars. Crosswinds, one of several upscale properties of Brittany Corp. with thematic-inspired "world's finest destinations" designs, is formed like a giant bowl, with all sides sloping inward. This formation presents quite a challenge to ordinary vehicles.

But with the S40's 170 horses packed in a 2.4-liter, five-cylinder double overhead cam engine, the trip around this giant bowl proved almost effortless. Some portions of the roads were so steep, however, that parking any car, even a hand-braked Volvo, required wedging rocks between the tires and the road to prevent them from rolling down.

The ride may be comfortable but the S40's handling was perfect for attacking the tricky corners of Crosswinds.

Coffee side trip

Part of the property tour was a

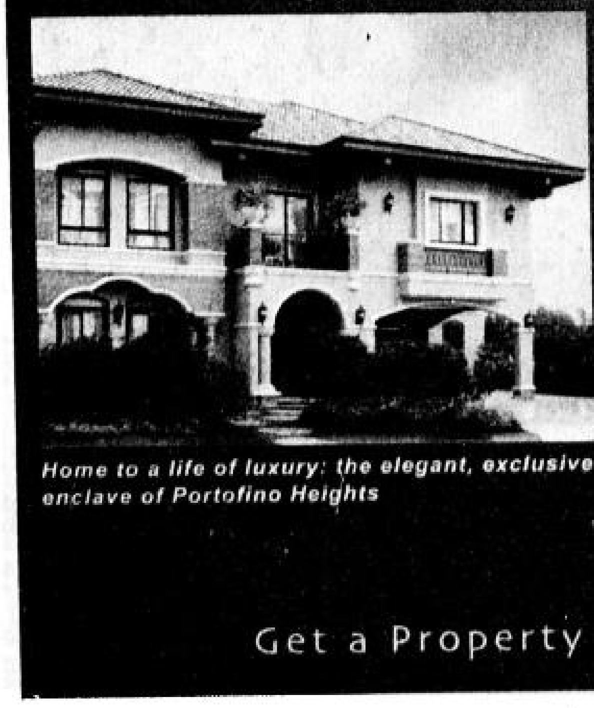
SWISS/ B2-4

Portofino
THE NEW ALABANG

THE NEAREST, HOTTEST DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN METRO MANILA

RIGHT HERE.
RIGHT NOW.

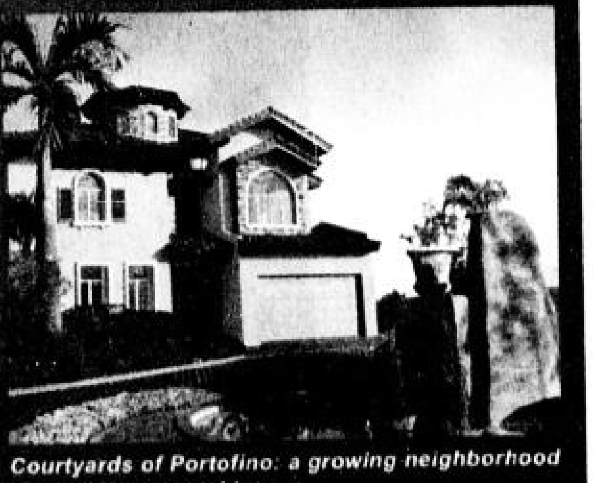
The newest prime address in Metro Manila is right here and now at Portofino. An expansive, masterplanned, masterpiece property, Portofino puts together communities in enclaves, a commercial area, and amenities right beside the Alabang business and commercial district. You have a choice of custom home sites, courtyard homes and *WideLots*™. Portofino is a *Lifescape*™ taken to a grand scale at over 300 hectares within an even larger masterplan of over 1000 hectares. And you won't have to go far. You won't have to wait. A life of luxury in the magnificent Italian style is right here, right now in the development that's emerging as the new capital of the south, the New Alabang—Portofino.



Home to a life of luxury: the elegant, exclusive enclave of Portofino Heights

Gateway to the masterplanned Italian masterpiece development of Portofino

Portofino's Roman bath-inspired pool: one of the amenities enjoyed by residents today



Courtyards of Portofino: a growing neighborhood of quaint courtyard homes

Brittany
CORPORATION

Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 and 850 6986 • Click www.brittany.com.ph

Magnifico: the growing neighborhood of quaint courtyard homes in Courtyards of Portofino

A 300-hectare landscape serves as the canvas...

masterplanned homes and amenities give it form...

nature provides a variety of vibrant colors...

charming Italian villages offer inspiration...

this is what it takes to make a masterpiece.

Portofino, Alabang:

triumph of Brittany masterplanning

Easily one of the country's biggest and most exciting up-market residential projects, Brittany Corporation's Portofino has become a living reality in just a few short years, with the implementation of its masterplan continuing at a brisk pace. True to its vision of an Italian-themed "lifescape", Portofino is a visual symphony of luxury enclaves evolving to an impressive scale of 300 hectares.

Located on the right, southbound along the Las Piñas-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road, a few minutes from the Alabang commercial district, Portofino is rapidly becoming the premier residential community in the metro south, a masterplanned collection of enclaves that conjure up Italian charm, grandeur and romance.

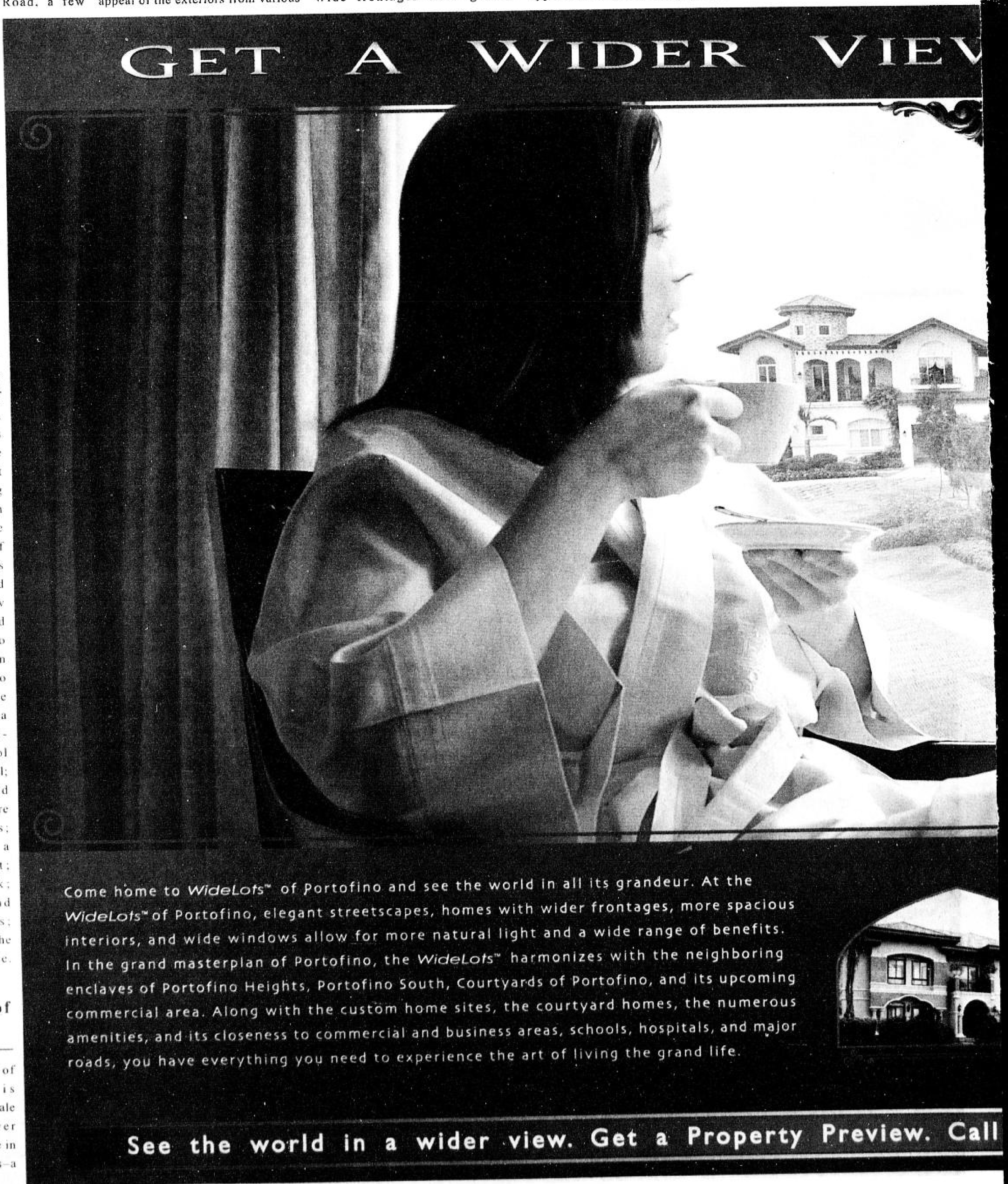
Portofino Heights

Inspired by the architecture of cosmopolitan Italy, Portofino Heights has custom home sites with elegant residences featuring distinctly Italian design details. The residences of Portofino Heights offer comfort and luxury, setting new standards. Located next to Portofino Heights is an activity center to enhance the enjoyment of life: a Roman bath-inspired lap pool and children's pool; a colonnade and pool terrace; nature jogging trails; courtyards; a barbeque pit; a river park; basketball and tennis courts; fountains; and the grand clubhouse.

WideLots of Portofino

The WideLots of Portofino is developed at a scale that has never before been done in the Philippines—a first by Brittany Corporation. The lot configuration maximizes the appeal of the exteriors from various angles, drawing attention to the beauty of every individual residence. Wide frontages offer greater opportunities for neighborly interaction, creating a more striking appearance and offering lovelier "streetscapes." The frontages allow big windows for the houses, to admit light and air generously.

At the entrance, gardens, statues and cobblestone roads provide a welcoming statement of magnificence from Old World Italy.



Come home to *WideLots*™ of Portofino and see the world in all its grandeur. At the *WideLots*™ of Portofino, elegant streetscapes, homes with wider frontages, more spacious interiors, and wide windows allow for more natural light and a wide range of benefits. In the grand masterplan of Portofino, the *WideLots*™ harmonizes with the neighboring enclaves of Portofino Heights, Portofino South, Courtyards of Portofino, and its upcoming commercial area. Along with the custom home sites, the courtyard homes, the numerous amenities, and its closeness to commercial and business areas, schools, hospitals, and major roads, you have everything you need to experience the art of living the grand life.

See the world in a wider view. Get a Property Preview. Call

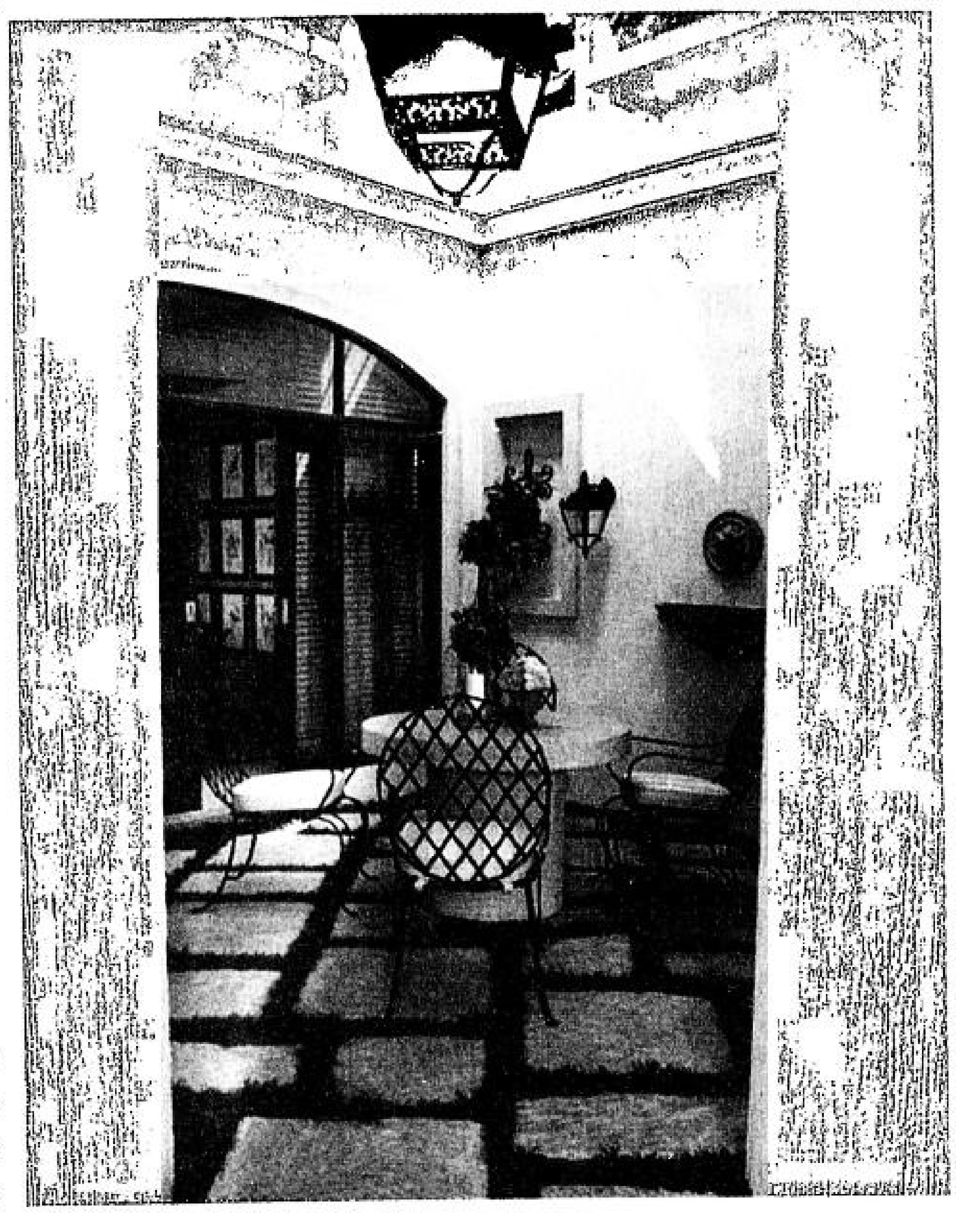
The Portofino masterplan began with Brittany's vision to integrate various communities with the components vital to providing a higher quality of life for residents–components that enhance the way people live as opposed to simple residential projects.

Courtyards of Portofino

Another first in the country, the Courtyards of Portofino is a development that puts together courtyard homes into neighborhoods at a grand scale. The success of Courtyards I and the continuing high demand for courtyard homes led to the rapid development of Courtyards II.

The courtyard residences of Portofino are a delightful application of the age-old concept of designing a dwelling around a central open space that enhances natural illumination and ventilation, while providing a private sanctuary for family members. Further enhancing the visual and practical appeal of Courtyard residences is their configuration in clusters around a bigger, central courtyard.

The WideLots and the Courtyards of Portofino are developed at a grand scale that has never been done before in the Philippines–a first by Brittany Corporation.


Inside the courtyard homes: a private open air sanctuary

The masterplan of Portofino provides for forward planning–ensuring that homeowners' investment in the properties grows in value in the future.

This concept of courtyards-within-a-courtyard is uniquely Brittany's.

Portofino South

The overwhelming success of Portofino Heights and the increasing demand for custom home sites gave rise to Portofino South. As with Portofino Heights, Portofino South draws its design inspiration from contemporary Italy.

Also located next to Portofino South is another activity center, with a range of similar amenities for exercise, leisure and sports. As an element of its masterplan, Portofino's activity centers are designed to afford access and convenience for residents.

Portofino's masterplan incorporates a sprawling 15-hectare commercial area reflecting the community's thematic influences. Carefully selected establishments will make the community more self-contained and self-sustaining.

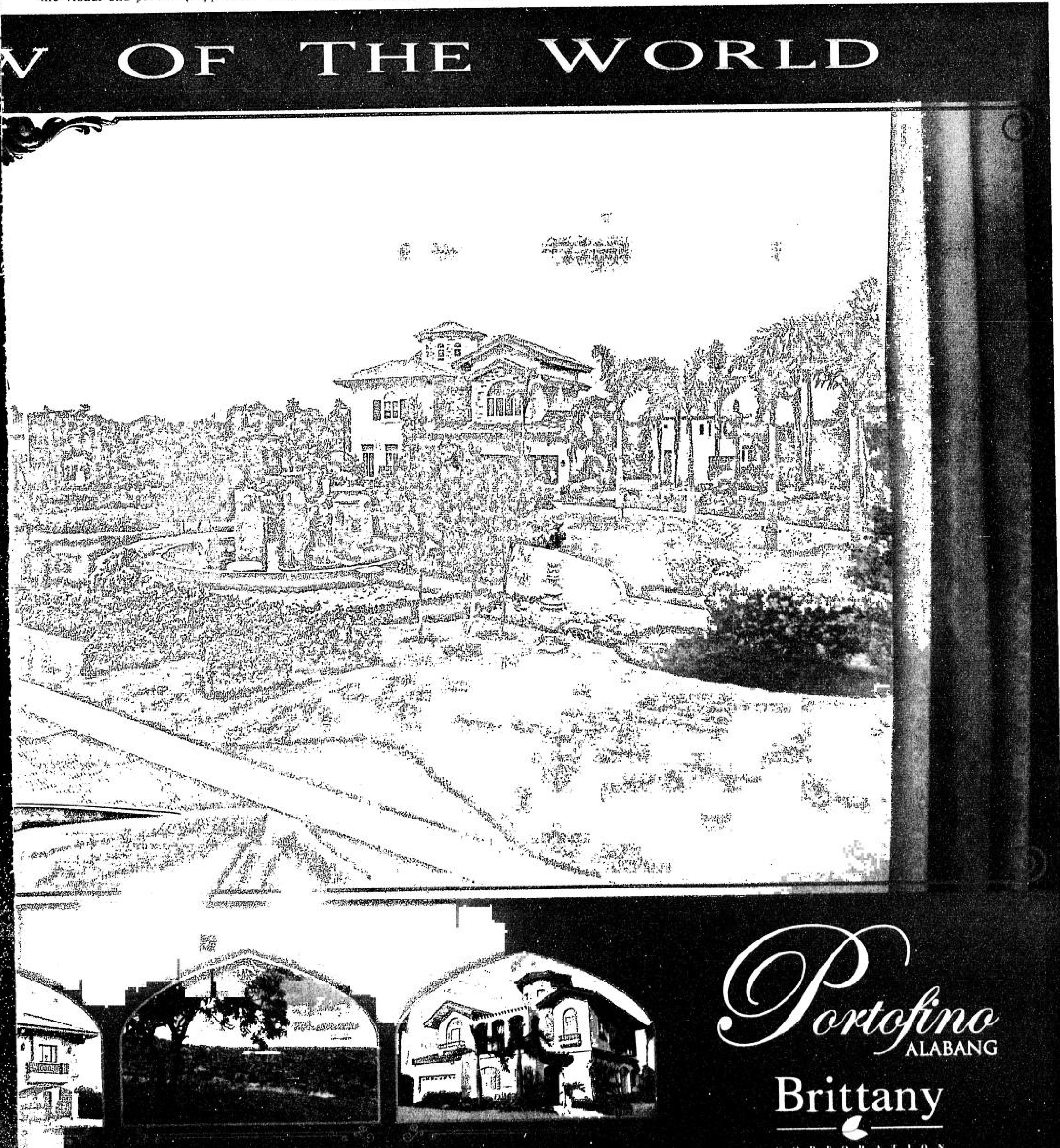
Portofino is a triumph of masterplannning, where aesthetic and functional elements blend harmoniously to create a one-of-a-kind Brittany community.

For those who have earned the privilege to partake of its Italian-inspired "lifescape," Portofino is a triumph of masterplannning. It began with Brittany's vision to integrate various communities with the components vital to providing a higher quality of life for residents–components that enhance the way people live as opposed to simple residential projects.

This adds up to value. The masterplan of Portofino provides for forward planning–ensuring that homeowners' investment in the properties grows in value in the future.

Portofino is a triumph of masterplanning, where aesthetic and functional elements blend harmoniously to create a one-of-a-kind Brittany community.

To know more about Portofino, the masterplanned masterpiece by Brittany, call 850 2868 or 850 6986 or click www.brittany.com.ph.



Indoor air pollution

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

MANILA IS ONE OF THE MOST polluted cities in the world, next to Mexico City, Shanghai and New Delhi. According to the World Health Organization, this is due to the high level emissions of diesel fuel. This situation normally prompts many people to seek refuge in their homes and offices to avoid outdoor pollution.

The truth is that indoor-air pollution can be up to five times worse than outdoor air pollution due to the products that we use each day.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) places poor indoor-air quality fourth on the list of cancer risks causing over 6,000 deaths per year attributable to indoor-air pollution.

Poor indoor quality is very expensive. It can cost millions of pesos annually in employee sick leave, earnings and productivity losses. In schools, there have been many studies that established a direct link between students' performance and the quality of the air within the school environment.

What is indoor air pollution?

Indoor-air pollution is basically the accumulation of airborne levels of fine particles and volatile chemicals such as formaldehyde, which results from building materials, furnishings inside homes and offices and building systems like cleaning and equipment use.

Formaldehyde is a colorless, strong-smelling gas. It is widely used to manufacture building and household products, especially as an adhesive resin in pressed wood products.

What are the health effects?

Indoor-air pollution is one of the main causes of what is known as the Sick Building Syndrome (SBS). This phenomenon is the mysterious condition wherein many occupants experience various health or comfort problems connected to the time spent in a particular building, for which no specific illness or sickness has been identified. It has been established however that Sick Building Syndrome may also be caused by acoustic, thermal, illumination and other aspects of indoor environment.

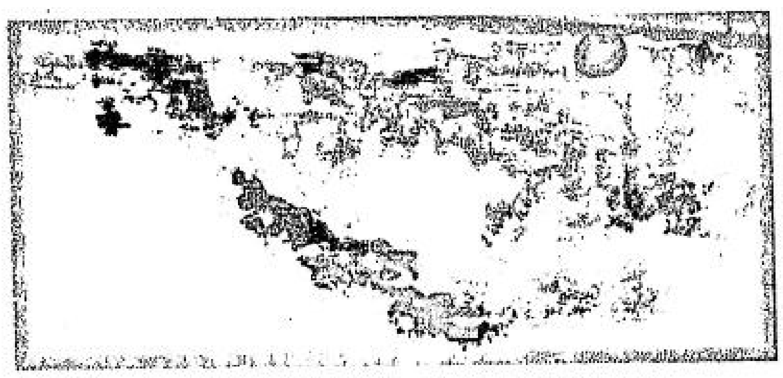
Health effects of indoor-air pollution can range from diseases like flu, cold and pneumonia to ailments such as cancer, asthma, allergy, respiratory, circulatory and other systemic effects.

What causes it?

The major sources of indoor pollutants include the outdoors, the building itself, the building occupants, equipment, appliances and consumer products.

In the construction industry, a major cause of indoor-air quality problems is premature occupancy. Buildings are occupied before construction is complete.

This is quite common with commercial establishments when owners want to start doing business right away even before some interior finishes and furnishings are completed and the air-conditioning system fully tested, adjusted and balanced. Without a thorough curing of products and a properly functioning ventilation system, many IAQ problems may be encountered. A better system is to plan from the outset for enough time between scheduled completion and occupancy of the building.



MOLD is not as harmless as it looks. A room with mold may negatively affect the health of the occupants.

MOLD PIC FROM WWW.MOLDINSPECTOR.COM

Buildings that have not been used for a long time such as condominium units normally go through extensive maintenance and housekeeping activities before they can be occupied. These activities may involve the application of chemicals such as carpet shampoo, solvents, floor wax and furniture polish. The accumulated emissions of these substances and activities should be removed before the area is occupied.

Another source of IAQ problems is when the maintenance of buildings or homes are neglected or delayed. One problematic area in many buildings is the air-conditioning system. Failure to do regular inspection, repair and cleaning of this equipment could lead to serious health problems. This applies particularly to health-care facilities like hospitals and clinics where people go to get well, only to find out that they end up more unhealthy than when they first came to the hospital or clinic.

Again, during construction activities, dust, fumes and vapors must not be allowed to contaminate the building and the air in areas occupied by people. If needed, a temporary ventilation system must be installed together with isolation barriers to protect areas not undergoing construction.

What can be done about it?

The first line of defense against dirt inside homes and workplaces occur at the front door. Eighty-five percent of the dirt that enters a building is brought in on people's shoes. Some of our Asian neighbors are aware of this. It has been customary for them to remove their shoes before entering their homes. This accounts for the spotless condition of their homes.

For air-conditioned areas, filtration is the most common pollutant removal mechanism, normally a part of the mechanical ventilation system. This involves circulation of air through a filter where particles are removed. Recent advances in filter technology allow much more effective filtration of smaller particles.

Frequent cleaning of surfaces can also reduce the burden on ventilation and filtration.

Many indoor-air quality problems start during the construction of a building. Most of these can be avoided by sequencing the construction process. This means installing materials with high chemical emissions first such as painting, caulking or drying components before installing absorbent materials such as ceiling tile, carpet and office furniture. Absorbent materials should be installed last.

BKPAINTING.TRIPOD.COM

EIGHTY-FIVE percent of dirt inside a building is brought in by people's shoes through the front door. Watch out too that your wood finishings are not treated with harmful toxins that may pollute the home.

Our dependence on commercial cleaning solutions can also be substituted with cleaning products at health food stores, or you can make them yourself out of cleaning ingredients such as baking soda, vinegar and lemon juice.

Gas stoves and appliances release fumes into the air. Make sure that the areas containing these appliances are well-ventilated.

Candles release soot and other pollutants into the air. It is advisable to use natural paraffin-free candles instead.

As newer, more complex types of buildings are constructed and occupied by more and more people, the issue of indoor-air quality is gaining more importance and prominence.

Now is the time for designers and developers to consider this vital health-related factor in their projects.

(The author is the chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards 2005 and is a practising green architect. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.)

WOMEN of Viking Cars, Brittany and the media after a circuitous visit of Swiss chalets

Swiss sanctuary . . .

From page B2-1

visit to the Figaro Coffee property in Tagaytay City, a major fixture in the country's coffee industry and organic coffee farming. Its Figaro Foundation has helped the municipal government of Amadeo, Cavite, transform 180 hectares of idle land into productive coffee farms in its Adopt-a-Coffee Farm.

Landowners here can lease out their land for five years, subject to renewal, with P1 per square meter or P10,000 per hectare per year paid to the landowners for the use of the land for coffee farming.

Because of this program, more farmers have gone back to tending abandoned coffee farms.

Crosswinds

Meanwhile, the Crosswinds is partly enveloped by natural forests. Though the highest point may not boast a view of Taal lake and volcano, it has a great view of the Cavite skyline.

The trip was capped by a hearty meal in one of the Swiss chalets, and a survey of the model houses.

Architects and design engineers configured Crosswinds homes with classic elegance of Swiss chalets in mind.

The wood patterns, overhanging eaves, stone cladding and dark asphalt roof shingles are just some of the Swiss-inspired touches. Even the wood floors, ceilings and rooms carried the Swiss concept.

The designers also claim that the location of Crosswinds in Tagaytay was carefully chosen for its Swiss-like terrain. The hills are lush with natural greenery. Homes are built around the existing landscape and the designers took advantage of the sloping terrain and the picturesque vantage points.

Other thematic Brittany properties are the newly built Italian-inspired Portofino in Alabang; a San Francisco-inspired Victorianne at Brittany Bay in Sucat; and La Posada, another San Francisco-inspired community, also in Sucat. Also included are Vita Toscana, a Tuscan-inspired country setting, in Bacoor, Cavite; The Trails of La Marea, American ranch-inspired homes, in San Pedro, Laguna; and Caribbean-inspired Island Park in Cavite.

Driving back to Manila after the breathtaking view, this writer couldn't help but notice that the S40 had become a perfect complement to, even an extension of, the fresh climate of Crosswinds Tagaytay.

Maybe even more, the S40 has added on to that perfect climate. The S40's interior components such as the ignition key, center console and parking brake hand button have been tested for contact allergies. Its textile and leather are free from allergenic substances, health-impairing materials and harmful emissions.

Volvo Cars is so environment conscious that it has built the S40 with materials that are 85 percent recyclable.

Who says cars and homes are completely different entities?

Brittany Bay's giant Christmas tree glistens with over 10,000 lights

ON THE WAY TO THE SUCAT EXIT ALONG The Wharf at Brittany Bay, a giant 40-foot Christmas tree adorned with hundreds of trinkets and brilliant lights sparkle from across the highway and into the hearts of motorists, diners and Brittany Bay homeowners. Maverick master developer Brittany Corp. has just ushered the joyous yuletide season and it is truly a breathtaking sight to behold.

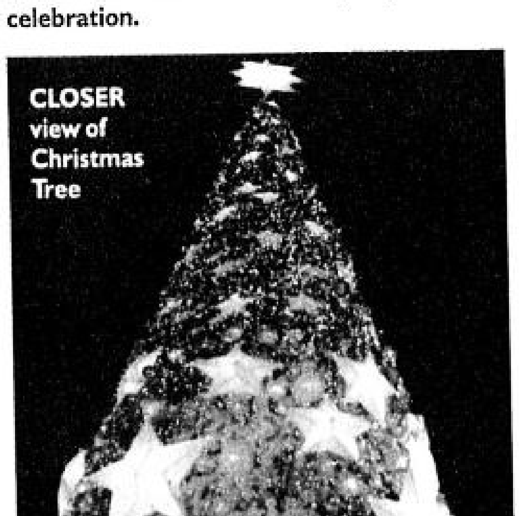
The lighting of the Brittany Bay Christmas Tree held recently at The Wharf was an event in itself, bringing the Brittany Bay community together for a magical night of music, dance and warm festivities.

A delightful serenade kicked off the much-anticipated Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The angelic voices of the UP Concert Chorus echoed in the cool bay breeze, singing classic carols in pitch perfect harmony to diners and revelers amid a backdrop of various product displays of Brittany's homes of the world.

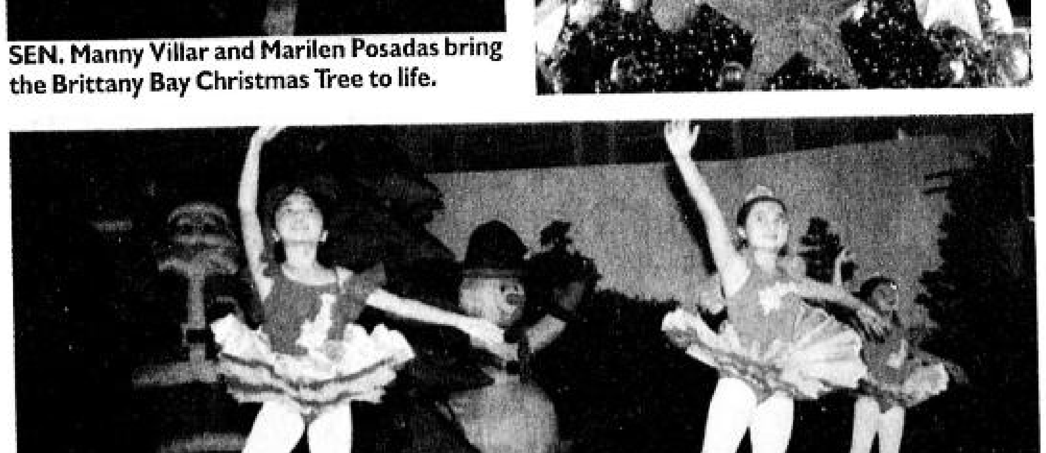
Guests were also regaled by an enchanting ballet performance from the students of East Bay Center for Music and Arts (EBCMA). Little girls in tutus gracefully tiptoed, twirled and curtsied before the Brittany Bay Christmas tree, leaving the audience utterly charmed.

THE LIGHTING of the Brittany Bay Christmas Tree turns into a joyous Yuletide community celebration.

SEN. Manny Villar and Marilen Posadas bring the Brittany Bay Christmas Tree to life.



CLOSER view of Christmas Tree



EAST Bay Center for Music and Arts (EBCMA) ballerinas captivate guests with their graceful performance.

Lighting of Christmas tree

The program was immediately followed by the lighting of the Brittany Christmas Tree by guest of honor Sen. Manuel Villar together with Brittany's joint-venture partner Maria Elena Marfori Posadas and her family, and with Jerry Navarette, president of Crown Asia. In an instant, the Christmas tree, in all its 40-foot glory, was bathed in gorgeous lights, all numbering over 10,000.

The ceremony was capped with cheers and applause as Brittany Corp. welcomed the Christmas season with a towering spectacle of lights.

Festive activities

The public is invited to come and share the Christmas spirit with the Brittany Bay community by catching any of Brittany's festive activities at The Wharf.

Diners can get their portrait taken for free at the giant Christmas tree for every P1,000 food purchase from any of the restaurants at The Wharf.

On Dec. 2-4, 9-11 and 16-25, get your bargain buys from the Christmas Night Market starting from 12 noon to 12 midnight. Restaurants in The Wharf are Dencio's, Grappa's, Figaro and Murasaki, a Japanese restaurant.

Enjoy a yuletide display of talent on Dec. 16 at the Christmas carol choir competition. You can also bring your family along for a day of holiday fun at the Christmas Family Day on Dec. 17.

The Brittany Bay Christmas Tree will be lit from 5 p.m. till midnight every day during the Christmas season. There will also be fireworks display on all Fridays of December.

For more inquiries on The Wharf and Brittany Bay, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

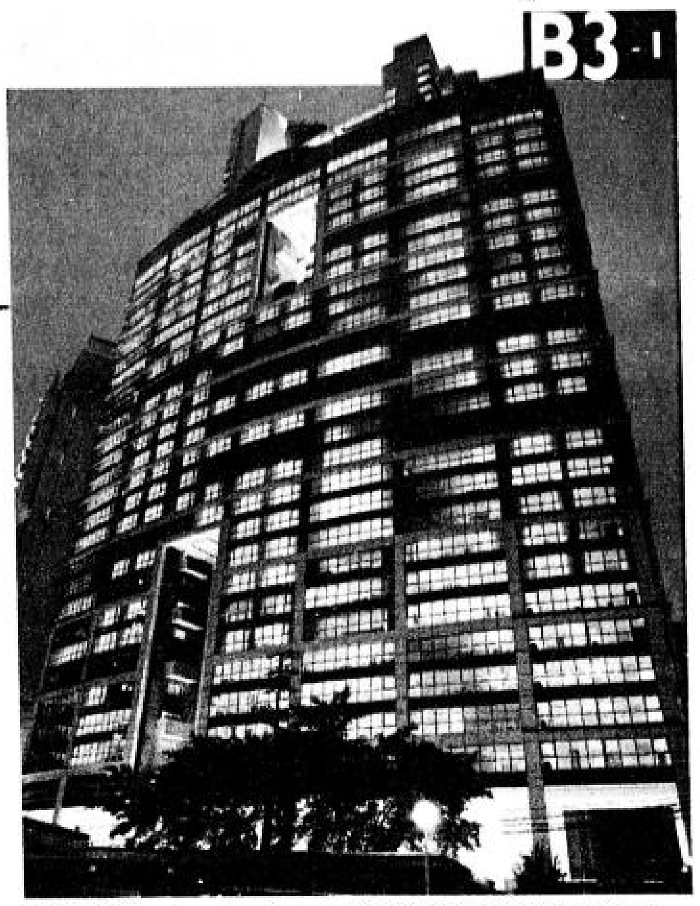
Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

PROPERTY

FRASER Place combines the space and luxurious freedom of home with the lavish amenities and responsive pampering of a hotel.

SERVICED APARTMENTS

Next growth avenue for hospitality sector



FRASER Place has two towers: the 42-story West Tower and the 31-story East Tower, rising from an exquisite convex façade.

By Charles E. Buban

UNTIL RECENTLY, THERE have been few alternatives to hotels and condominiums for expatriates along with business or leisure travelers seeking longer-term accommodation in the country.

While serviced apartments are well established in countries like the United States, Singapore, China and Thailand, this sector is still in its infancy here in the Philippines.

And there is a reason this sector is fast developing in the country, especially the high-end ones.

"A serviced apartment offers the best of both worlds: the warmth and comfort of one's home combined with state-of-the art facilities and world-class services afforded to one staying on a first-rate hotel," explained Christopher Bong, general manager of Fraser Place Serviced Residences-Forbes Tower Manila (located on Valero Street in Salcedo Village, Makati City).

Fully furnished

The term "serviced apartment" mainly refers to any leased apartment fully furnished with furniture, fittings and appliances and provided with international hospitality service including concierge and housekeeping.

But instead of being bound by a minimum leasing period (as with conventional rented apartments or condominiums, a typical serviced apartment agreement allows the tenant to specify the length of stay, which could be as short as one night to as long as three years or more (their contract is usually renewed every year).

"This is perfect for foreign expatriates and business travelers taking medium- or long-term business assignments in the Philippines since a typical serviced apartment unit has gourmet kitchen (with full-sized refrigerator, microwave oven, toaster, coffee maker, cordless kettle, built-in oven, glassware, cutlery and crockery) to allow the tenant to cook their own meal, washing machine and dryer, and maid's room and toilet, valuable features not usually found in hotel accommodation," revealed Bong.

But like staying in a hotel, Bong revealed that basic utilities including water, telephone, cable network services are already included in the rental, thus giving the tenant one less thing to worry about.

Human touches

But over and above all these top-of-the-line amenities offered, Bong said guests, especially the long-staying ones, are more likely to remember the "human touches" encountered during the stay.

"Recognizing that many executives relocate with their families, staff members at every level receive specialized training to anticipate and attend to the needs of spouses and children. In an effort to deliver the comfort of home-style living combined with the indulgences of quality hotel services, incoming guests are usually consulted on their needs ahead of their arrival," revealed Bong.

Indeed, serviced apartments are the country's "darling of the hospitality sector," as Fraser Place as an example, sustains a high 90 percent occupancy (95 percent to 98 percent) as compared to other hotels that average from 50 percent to 75 percent occupancy.

Aside from overseas visitor arrivals and expatriate community, demand for serviced apartments in the Philippines is complemented by local executives who prefer being close to their office or who doesn't want to be bogged down in traffic.

Outperforming others

"Indeed, high-end serviced apartment sector in the country is outperforming others considering that it is well insulated against the downturn and there are few new hotel developments to compete," said Bong.

Apart from that, Bong said the sector is also benefiting from multinational corporations that are increasingly sending their staff on short- to medium-term assignments rather than long-term relocation. Thus, serviced apartments are becoming a natural choice for meeting their staff accommodation needs.

At the 150-unit Fraser Place, a tenant has the option to live in a one-, two-, three-, four-bedroom suite, that ranges from 169 sq m to 584 sq m in area (rates may range from $265 to $685 a day or from $6,300 to 16,800 a month).

Bong said these rates already include utilities, daily housekeeping service (available upon request on Sundays and public holidays), daily scheduled shuttle service to business districts and commercial centers, and parking slot for one vehicle.

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International Community

My five-year old can say "Hello" in six languages.

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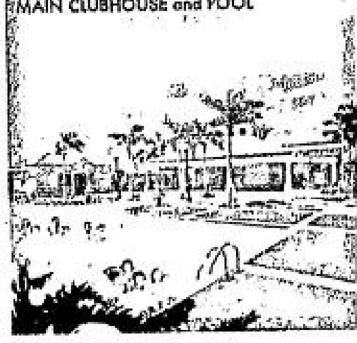
PROMINENCE II townhouses



MAIN CLUBHOUSE and POOL

KASSANDRA house model

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Developer sees green in Laguna

By Charles E. Buban

A LAGUNA-BASED HOME DEVELOPER is currently building new neighborhoods in the province reflecting the growth and progress of this area south of Metro Manila.

For PA Alvarez Properties and Development Corp., its projects speak well of the province's booming economic and commercial activity.

"A lot of companies and businessmen regard Laguna as the perfect base of their operations. In fact, the province's numerous industrial parks host multinational and export-oriented companies, providing stable source of income for thousand of families living there," said Romarico "Bing" Alvarez, president and COO of PA Alvarez Properties and Development.

Celebrating its 11th anniversary next week, Alvarez said this development has prompted the company in 1994 to venture into home building to attract middle-income families whose buying power are slowly increasing.

Converted farmland

"Eleven years ago, the company converted our family-owned farmland in San Pedro into a 2.3-hectare subdivision. Offering over 200 units, St. Joseph Village 1 sold out in less than four months. That prompted the company to build more," recalled Alvarez.

Alvarez revealed the company has already built or is currently building 16 projects (located in and outside Laguna) adding that the demand is overwhelming in Laguna alone, they are now into selling St. Joseph Village 8 located in Barangay Butong, Cabuyao, Laguna.

He said Laguna-based firms hoping to attract and retain qualified workers welcome these housing projects near their area.

Close to 300 units

"With close to 300 units to be offered, St. Joseph Village 8's home packages (ranging from P810,000 to P2.155 million in price and from 80- to 120-square-meter lot sizes), the project hopes to attract even more middle-income home buyers hoping to settle in this fast-developing municipality," said Alvarez.

ARIA

"We all know that middle-income housing has been the bedrock and foundation of life in this country. The development of St. Francis Village 8 is another big step forward for the company toward ensuring that a nice home can become a reality for upstart families, not just a wish," said Alvarez.

He added that St. Joseph Village 8 will offer three new home design models (Aria, Ascela, and Althena) to choose from.

Alvarez also said that like the rest of St. Francis Villages, the latest project's location is perfect for families who want to be near reputable schools, hospitals and markets as well as shopping malls and commercial centers.

"St. Joseph Village 8 offers fine amenities including landscaped entrance gates and guard houses, concrete roads, gutters and curbs, centralized water supply system, underground storm drainage system, swimming pool, multipurpose halls and pavilions, and provision for telephone lines and cables," he said.

Alvarez reported: "Most of those who already bought or has shown interest are those living or has found work in the province lauding the project's proximity to their work place."

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Edsa Central expansion gives more shopping options

SHOPPERS HAVE NOW GROWN more discerning due to the proliferation of various malls and commercial establishments over the years. They have specific needs that they want to fulfill when they visit any commercial center—value for money, ambiance, accessibility, retail shops and restaurants.

Malls that offer less than these are left in the dust, while establishments that provide more gain a bigger influx of shoppers as each day passes. This is the proven formula that has made Edsa Central Greenfield District a successful and vaunted player in the mall industry.

Needs of shoppers

JJ Montinola, Edsa Central's lease marketing manager, explained that his department keeps close watch on the needs of its loyal shoppers. This ensures that the newly opened extension of the Edsa Central Pavilion will be up-to-date and flexible in terms of offering value-for-money services, mix of retail shops and availability of food outlets—all packaged under a pleasant ambiance and accessible locations.

The leasing department also keeps abreast of market trends by offering new shops and services that cater to the new needs of its clientele.

"A recent addition to the mall is the cell phone and accessories exhibit at the Food Central that serves as a prelude to the opening of a bigger trade hall that will house the telecommunications, IT and entertainment zone," Montinola said.

He also revealed that shoppers could look forward to more lifestyle and fashion establishments with the opening of boutiques like Bargain-in-a-Box, Style Station, Penshoppe and Page. Meanwhile, families who seek to improve their home appliances and décor will soon get to visit the new Sogo Home and Office Center set open on the second floor.

FAÇADE of Edsa Central Pavilion

Great buys, exciting finds

Shoppers can discover great buys and exciting finds that cater to each member of the family at various established brand and novelty outlets to be found at the Personal Care Zone.

At the Edsa Central Pavilion, Dad can easily shop for precious gifts for mom at the Merced Hernandez Jewelry, while other family members can have their personal photo memories developed quickly at the Konika Photo Express.

A quick stop at the Mercury Drug will take care of the health care needs for the kids, while mom can peruse around for new beauty care products at HBC. Meanwhile the kids can hang around reading books at the Chapters and Pages, while Dad drops by Western Union to send money out to the folks.

Edsa Central is not only about shopping, its is also about pampering oneself whether by stopping by for a quick makeover at David's Salon or grab a few treats at the San Miguel Food Shop. Plus one can even earn money by learning about new business opportunities through Amway.

But probably the best attraction of all for Edsa Central, Montinola explained, is being strategically located next to the MRT, which has made the Pavilion even more accessible to a wider range of shoppers than ever before. Now shoppers who don't wish to endure the hassle of Metro Manila traffic can simply hop on the MRT for a short ride and longer hours of shopping fun.

All roads leading to Baypoint Estates

TO BE A SHORT DRIVE AWAY from everything is today's luxury. People spend 25 percent of their daily lives in transit in order to get anywhere—work or school or just to avail of basic needs and services. Imagine a better quality of life by living close to everything you would need out of life. Well, that luxury is actually now within reach.

Only a few minutes away from the metropolis, Kawit is a picturesque town with well-preserved monuments and landmarks, as well as a town with its own unique cultural heritage.

At home with history, is the inspiration behind Baypoint Estates, a 23-hectare master-planned residential and commercial community in Kawit, Cavite. Houses in the themed subdivision have American Colonial architecture. Homeowners can enjoy premiere amenities in this secure and peaceful community.

Accessible

Through the many access roads from Kawit and with the near completion of the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road Extension (MCCRE) one can easily reach the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the Makati and Manila CBDs making it even more attractive as a place of business.

Truly strategically located, everything is within reach from Baypoint Estates. Schools, hospitals, major shopping centers, resorts, leisure and recreational establishments are just minutes away from home.

Our newest neighbor moving into the town is St. Paul University of Manila, which will be just directly across Baypoint Estates. The university serves as the anchor institution of the area, making Kawit a future university town. St. Paul University will offer classes from preschool all the way to the graduate level.

Buyers can choose from among three elegant house models on lots ranging from 160 to 400 square meters. Homeowners can also choose to build a home of their own concept as long as it blends with the neighborhood's design scheme.

Baypoint Estates is the first of a series of upscale residential communities that will be developed in the area, making it a valuable investment since property values are expected to further appreciate in the coming years.

High-quality development

To ensure the high quality of the development, Baypoint Estates has harnessed the experience and expertise of top architects from RMDA Architects and urban planners from Palafox Associates to give life to the shared vision of providing the Filipino family a dream home.

Endorsed by engineer Enrico Cruz, real estate mentor of many years, Baypoint Estates is really an investment that values accessibility, safety and comfort. To learn more about Baypoint Estates, call United Realty Brokers and Appraisers Network (Urbanet) at 681-0928, 681-0953 and 0916-4269174, or e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

A THREE-BEDROOM unit of Sapphire One Condominium

One Sapphire Condo: new urban dwelling option

ONE SAPPHIRE CONDOMINIUM, FAST-rising as a new urban dwelling option, aptly described as "beauty to behold, yours to own" and "your haven, your refuge, your home" offers a most convenient residential address.

Only some 10 minutes away from the Makati Business District and the Ortigas Center, the new home site will provide endless conveniences or choices for daily pursuits for would-be residents. Business, commercial, academic, health and religious establishments are nearby.

The project will be ready for occupancy next April, according to project owner-builder R.J. Lhinet Development Corp. (RJLDC).

Bi-level design solution

What else sets the new condominium project apart from similar projects? For one, One Sapphire Condominium offers a bi-level design solution to allow for greater room for privacy while occupants enjoy the added vertical space for other functions.

Being offered are one-bedroom units (33.59 sq m), two-bedrooms units (72.32 sq m) and three-bedroom units (75.87 sq m) which are reasonably priced.

Among the facilities and amenities responding to modern needs are a swimming pool with a whirlpool, a children's playground, a gymnasium, a snack bar and a basement parking.

Others that make for convenient and secure daily living are backup power for common areas, centralized garbage disposal and collection system, automatic alarm and sprinkler system, ample capacity overhead and underground water tanks and 24-hour security service.

Open house

An "open house" is to be hosted right at the project venue on Fabella Street, Mandaluyong, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 4 and 11.

To be unveiled are two model units designed to accommodate the modern lifestyle of residents living in comfort in the metropolis. Financing is available from the Pag-Ibig Fund, private banks or through in-house schemes.

RJLDC is offering promotional discounts to prospective buyers who will reserve units during the two-day open house. For inquiries about the project, interested home buyers may call 532-5169 or 532-1253.

BURKE Brise Soleil, a breathtaking feature of the Milwaukee Art Museum

'Poetry in motion'

AMAZING STRUCTURES

ALTHOUGH PERCEIVED BY SOME MILwaukee residents as irrational, one cannot deny the fact that the Milwaukee Art Museum's Quadracci Pavilion is one fine example of "poetry in motion."

Designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, the pavilion was built to provide additional space for the museum and give it a new image. Light and open as well as seeming to reach out to the lake, the 142,050-square-foot pavilion's striking feature is the Burke Brise Soleil, a moveable, wing-like sunscreen on top of the museum's vaulted, glass-enclosed reception hall.

Wider than a Boeing 747-400 airplane, the Burke Brise Soleil is composed of 72 steel fins and has a wingspan of 217 feet. The moving sculpture opens and closes at the same time as the museum, serving to shade its interiors. As an added feature, the "wings" of the 90-ton Burke Brise Soleil are also made to "flap" at every noon, to the amusement of museum-goers.

Unveiled on May 4, 2001, the Quadracci Pavilion is the first US building to be designed by Calatrava. Many say that the Burke Brise Soleil is unprecedented in American architecture as well as unique among the moveable structures Calatrava has designed in Europe. *Dianne M. Villafuerte*

Resort Life at Landco's Terrazas de Punta Fuego:

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At Terrazas de Punta Fuego, you can live your dreams right here, right now. The ultimate in resort living is already fulfilled and realized to perfection, just waiting to be experienced. And with the completion of the new Marina, Landco Pacific is set to deliver the last major facility at the famed Peninsula de Punta Fuego. After all, a promise is a promise.

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At Terrazas de Punta Fuego, you can indulge in nonchalance and laid-back pleasure. The mood is casual and relaxed, inspiring one to be free and plunge into life with passion. Every corner is an invitation to let your hair down, dig your heels into the sand, make a splash and hang loose.

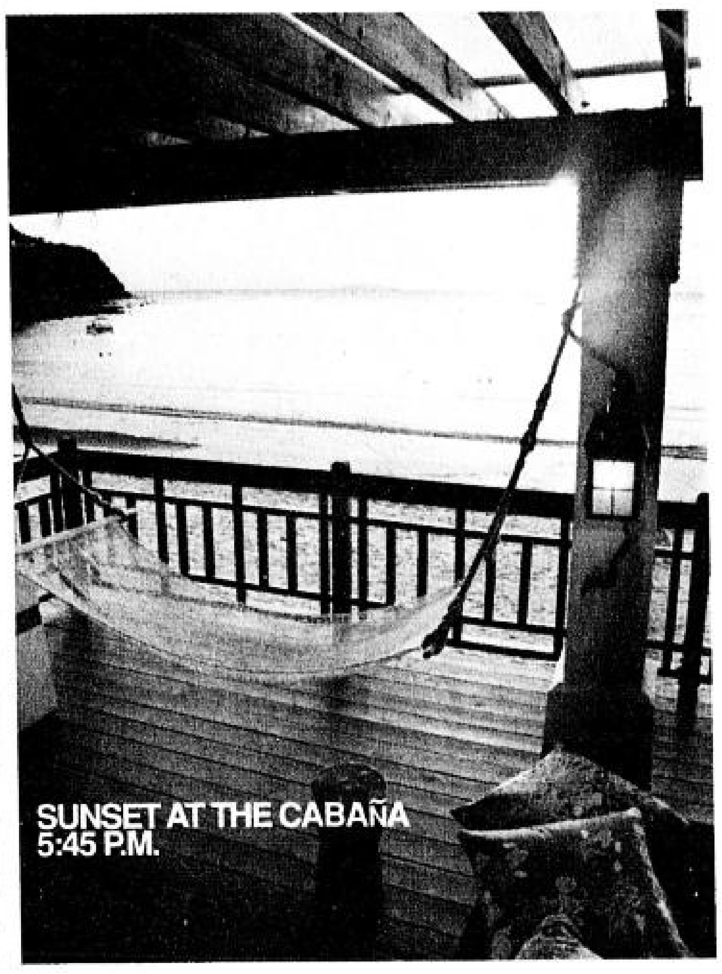
And in Terrazas, all paths lead to the beach. The beach is and remains the best swimming beach in Batangas that runs along 800 meters of powdery white sand and clear blue waters. Lush natural landscapes surround oceanfront homes, providing a magnificent counterpoint with the overarching blue of the South China Sea.

The architecture fuses Spanish-Mediterranean aesthetic with elemental Asian flavor, as a way to introduce the tropical character of the Terrazas setting. The result is a place that inspires, invigorates and moves.

Every waking moment here opens you up to the fulfillment of luxurious resort living. Indeed, Terrazas gave rise to a beach lifestyle, uniquely Terrazas in every way—pampered lounging at the cabanas, affording shade, rest and front-row views of the coast and glorious sunsets. And beyond the cabanas, the indulgence of resort living and leisure reaches its peak with casual dining at Café Sol and off-the-beach fun at the free-form infinity pool.

Nothing compares to grabbing your dream now and living it. And live it you will at Terrazas de Punta Fuego. No more waiting. No more dreaming. The best of resort living beckons here and now. Open your eyes and let the Terrazas experience happen to you.

Landco Pacific Corporation is a multi-product developer of high quality residential resorts, leisure farms, first homes residential developments, shopping centers and CBD's, and memorial parks. Now celebrating its 15th anniversary, the company continues to provide superior value in its developments, and is recognized as a benchmark for outstanding lifestyle products that revolutionize the way we live. For more information please call 807-2232 to 34, email info@landcopacific.com or visit www.landcopacific.com.



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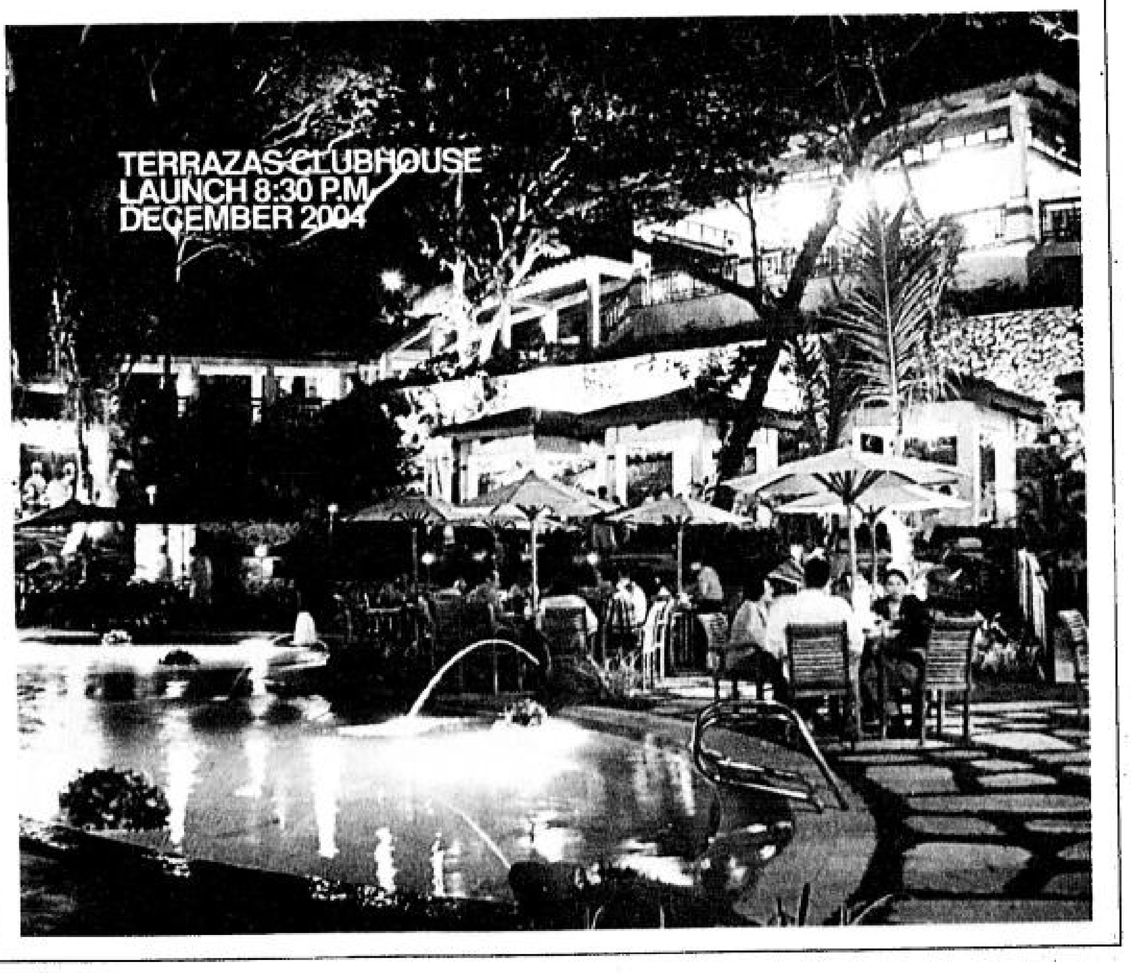

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Ayala Land creates diverse Filipino communities

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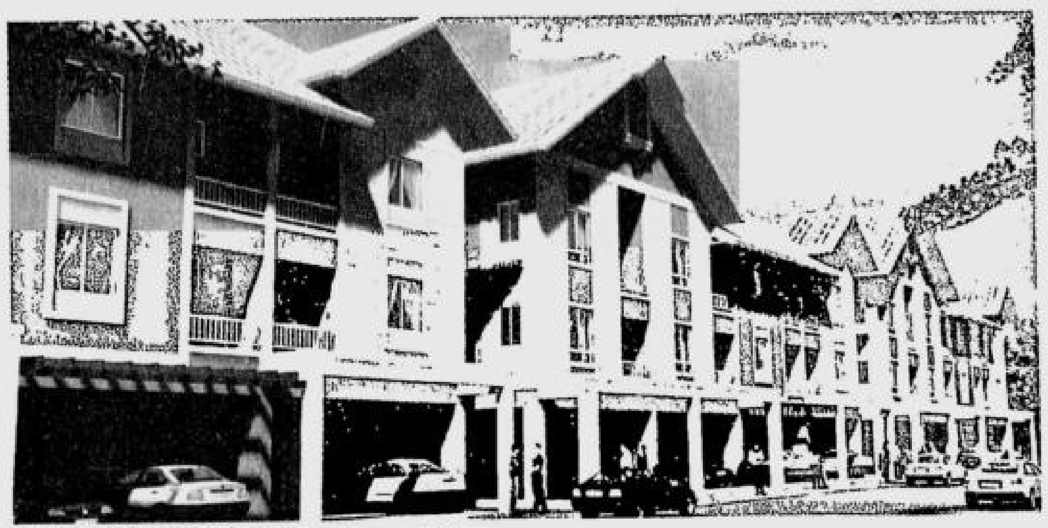
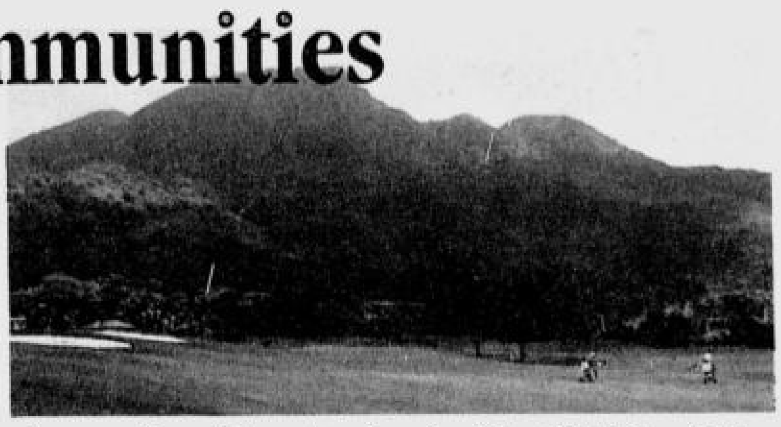
No matter how far one has gone, the Philippines will always be that special place. And when it's time to return, it's only fitting to invest in a home that will adapt to his or her changing living requirements and lifestyles.

Whether it's a grand mansion, a townhouse or a condominium unit, that place must surpass expectations, so choosing a developer that can constantly deliver with integrity, reliability and commitment is a must.

Finding that perfect investment needn't be a hassle, as the Philippines' most trusted name in real estate, Ayala Land, continues to create diverse and exemplary Filipino communities.



THE TOWNHOUSES of Montgomery Place



AYALA Greenfield

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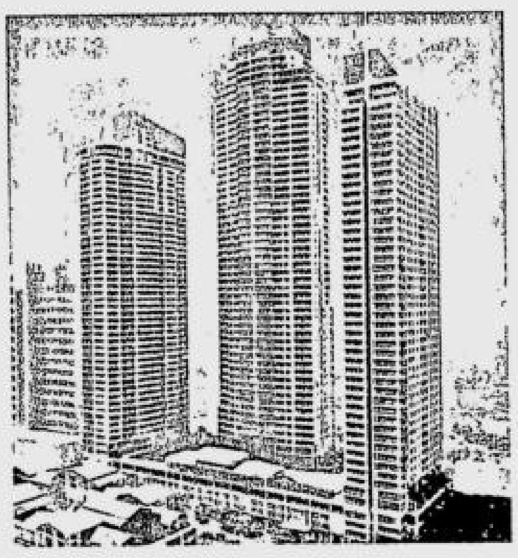
Decades of quality service and commitment to shaping living environments have made the company one that has provided ideal homes to countless Filipinos, and even expats and their guests. Whatever their needs may be, the Ayala Land property of their choice has them covered, and then some.

From new families to active retirees, the pleasures of living in accessible, amenity-rich developments are made more enjoyable and worthwhile. Upscale subdivisions have adapted to their changing needs, and the option of settling at more private havens has led them to the inviting sanctuaries of Ayala Land developments just south of Metro Manila.



THE RESIDENCES at Greenbelt

The developer's involvement with high-end projects such as Ayala Westgrove Heights and Ayala Greenfield exemplifies its desire for realizing ably planned exclusive communities with nature settings. Outside Metro Manila are Hacienda Santa Monica, Santarosa Estates 2 and San Rafael Country Estates, new developments by Laguna Properties Holdings, an Ayala Land subsidiary which provides families unceasing communes with nature and tranquility.

Wise options

Those seeking luxury and exclusivity within the din of metropolitan living have wise options too, from fully equipped condominiums—Bonifacio Ridge, Serendra and The Residences at Greenbelt. Units that cater to discriminating tastes continue to attract those who fancy spending their own lives at their own leisurely pace and with the benefits of topnotch amenities and features such as landscaping and greenery.

The townhouses of Montgomery Place and the unique single-detached homes of its pocket development, The Legacy, offer such benefits within the heart of Quezon City. Nearby is Laguna Property Holdings' Aeropolis New Manila, a vertical place of residence near countless conveniences and Community Innovations' The Columns, Ayala Avenue, providing community living in proximity to the Makati business hub, both developments by Ayala Land subsidiaries.

AYALA Westgrove Heights

Living life to the fullest

Ayala Land has its expansive catalogue of deftly designed homes that embody the Filipinos' different dream abodes. Apart from the company's dedication to service and attention to detail, it is also offering a number of payment schemes and promos.

Owning an Ayala Land property assures that many privileges are experienced now and for many satisfied years to come. Living life to the fullest is guaranteed, as more new residents are now discovering. For inquiries on Ayala Land properties, please call 728-7000, or log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

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CANYON RANCH

A community dev't that wins you over

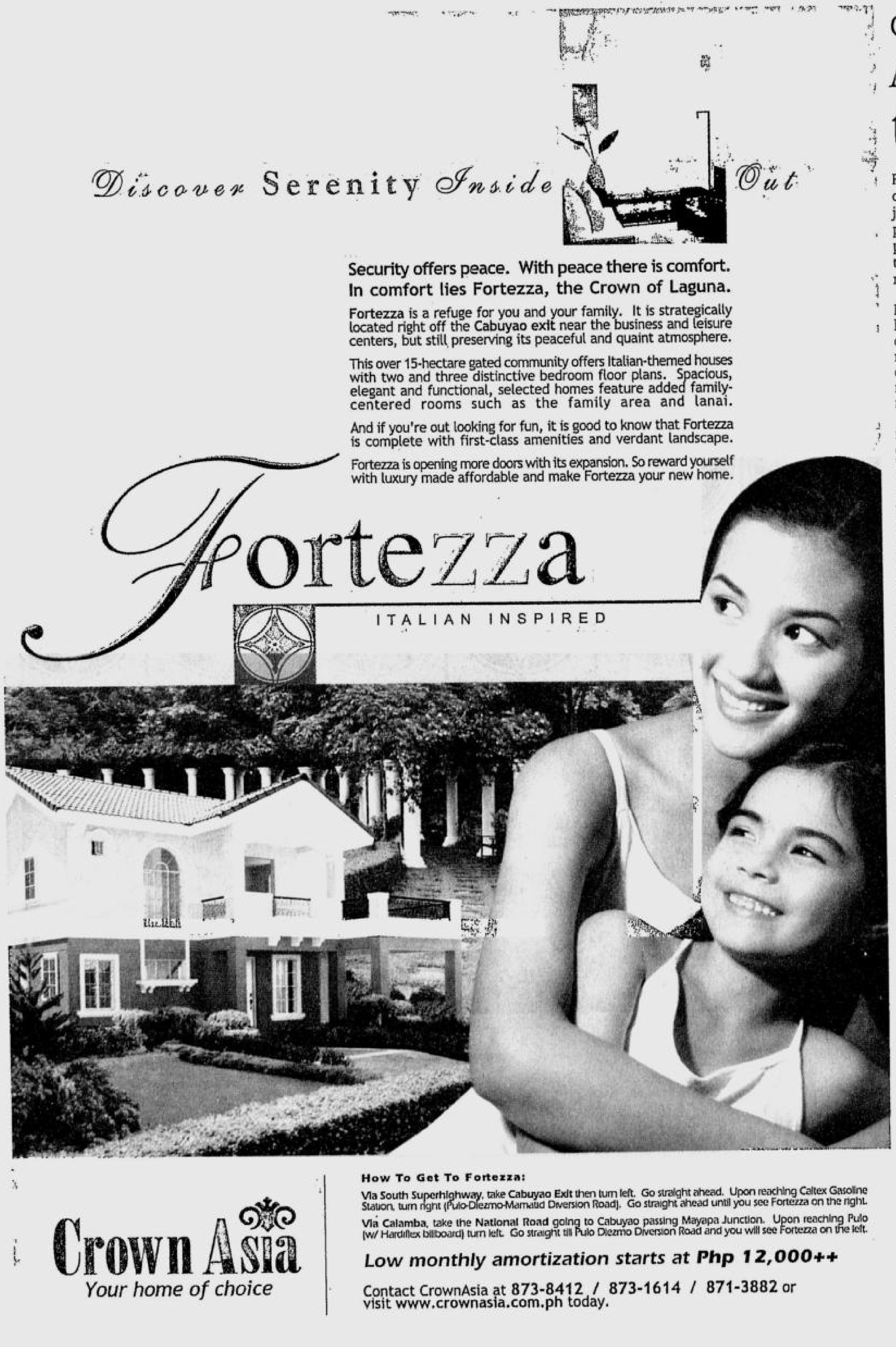
FOR MANY WEEKS, A FRIEND of mine has been nagging me to just come and see this residential project site. Finally, after constant prodding, I consented and went to see Canyon Ranch in Carmona.

After seeing its "Street of Dreams" or model pavilion, I have to agree... that it takes only one brief visit and one fleeting moment to be enamored by the charm of this unique development—Canyon Ranch has definitely won me over.

Upon entering Canyon Ranch in San Lazaro Leisure Park one cannot help but feel as if you have been transported to another place, more like one scenic suburban community in California. That is why it was no surprise to hear from its developer Century Communities Corp. that Canyon Ranch is the fastest selling homes in the south. But here are just some of the reasons to help validate why Canyon Ranch is the most successful selling project in the south today.

- **Terrain.** Perched on the foothills of Carmona, Cavite, and built 10 stories above ground, Canyon Ranch boasts of elevated, rolling terrain spread out over 17 hectares of pristine land. Residents of Canyon Ranch enjoy spectacular views of Laguna de Bay, the hills of Antipolo, Mount Makiling and the world-class Manila Jockey Club.
- **Location.** Canyon Ranch is at least 25 minutes closer to Makati as compared to other residential developments in the south. It is within the university belt of the best schools in the south, and a close distance to shopping havens. Also within more than 5-kilometer radius are some of the best golf and country clubs. Also nearby are beaches in Batangas and vacation places in Tagaytay.
- **Climate.** The high elevation of Canyon Ranch and its proximity to the mountains provide Canyon Ranch with cool weather. (Just one degree warmer than Tagaytay). For residents who want to enjoy the great outdoors and escape the heat and smog of Metro Manila, this means cool, natural breeze and healthy, pollution-free environment.
- **Guaranteed community.** Unlike other developments that sell lots only, and thus attract speculators, Canyon Ranch sells house and lot packages. Every home in Canyon Ranch will be built-on guaranteed.
- **Exclusivity.** While other developments are 15 times bigger and sell thousands of lots, Canyon Ranch has only 700 units. Since its launch less than a year ago, properties at Canyon Ranch have appreciated by as much as 25 percent. Investing in Canyon Ranch is a low-risk, high-profit undertaking.
- **The first wi-fi community in the Philippines.** All homes at Canyon Ranch are wi-fi and broadband ready, giving you instant wireless connection and high-speed Internet access. Armed with a laptop or PDA, this means being able to enjoy wireless broadband connectivity while having a cup of cappuccino or a glass of wine whenever and wherever you are in Canyon Ranch.
- **A world-class racetrack.** Nestled inside the San Lazaro Leisure Park, Canyon Ranch overlooks the San Lazaro racetrack—one of the best in Asia—and residents can literally watch the games from their balconies. All over the world, real estate that is situated beside a racetrack enjoy price premiums.
- **Managed by the country's largest private property management company.** Century Properties Management Inc. (CPMI), a subsidiary of developer Century Communities will provide the property and management services at Canyon Ranch, ensuring excellent upkeep and worry-free supervision of your investment.
- **Affordable homes and the best payment terms in the market.** There is a wide market of buyers ranging from young professionals, start-up families, to balikbayans who want to invest and retire and are falling in line to own a home at Canyon Ranch. Homes at Canyon Ranch start at P1.8 million. Canyon Ranch has pioneered special interest-free Pay Lite terms, where one can own a home for as low as $5 a day.
- **Outstanding developer track record and reputation.** The Century Properties Group has over two decades of experience and distinguished reputation of developing quality, innovative developments that meet the demands of the global Filipino.

But perhaps the best reason is not even listed: Canyon Ranch creates lasting memories in a community that works, functions and interacts like family. It's a place to grow up, live, raise a family, and grow old—just like the good old days when neighbors actually know each other.



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Via Calamba, take the **National Road** going to Cabuyao passing Mayapa Junction. Upon reaching Pulo (w/ Hardiflex billboard) turn left. Go straight till Pulo Diezmo Diversion Road and you will see Fortezza on the left.

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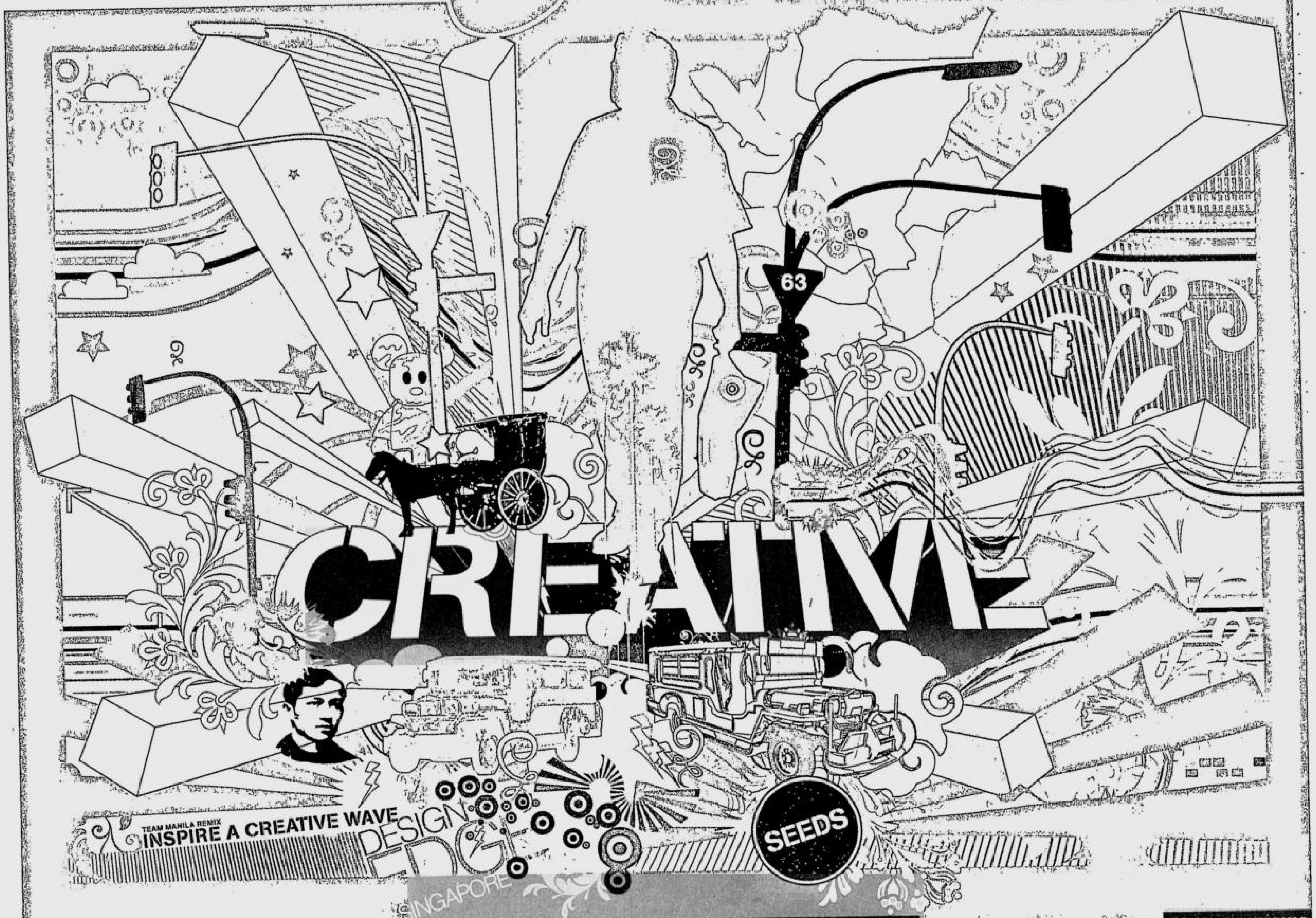

Super! exclusive issue on DesignEDGE '05 in Singapore page C2

Only in Super! page D2
Kostas Seremetis, Maharishi, RoStarr and Designers Republic

Pushing the Manila envelope page E

Produced by TIM YAP
Original artwork by TEAM MANILA
Inspired by THE SINGAPORE DESIGN FESTIVAL

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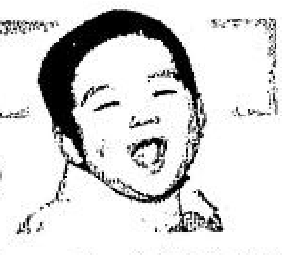
Why I am 'Pro-Creation'



Tim Yap

IT'S THE ONLY TIME WE SHARE a role with the omnipresent. When we create, we are Creators.

"Creativity is omniscient. Like pure energy, it can neither be created nor destroyed. It exists in every individual. In some it lies dormant; in others it shines brightly; in a few, a special few, it has the power to change the world." So said **Robert Ely**, president and CEO of LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts Singapore.

I am still recovering from the high I got being at DesignEDGE '05, one of the 1001 events that the Lion City organized for the Singapore Design Festival. Looking at the event guide, there were countless exhibits, parties and fashion shows happening all over town with guest speakers flown from all over the world. Make no fuss about it. Singapore is dead serious in becoming the crucible for the creative arts in Asia—they aim to be a world player in the creative field—in a major way at that.

Produced by the forward-thinking visual intellectual's bible IdN magazine and presented by the DesignSingapore Council, the DesignEDGE Conference and Expo is essentially a creative conference and exhibition that merges programs and performances featuring some of the world's most influential yet mild mannered revolutionaries. "It will be the perfect antidote to the commercial straitjacket into which many designers feel they have been forced these days—an opportunity to give vent to unfettered creativity," their poster broadcasted.

Culture subculture shock

Am I going to be with the best minds, creative folks and eccentric fruits of the world in one city? Check. Is it going to be a gathering of industry experts to demonstrate precisely what it was that drove them to overturn the prevailing "rules of the game" and how they arrived at the inspiration to see things from a whole new perspective? Double check! Will it be a nonstop brainf—k gathering with a stellar collection of the world's creative iconoclasts? Check, check, check!

I had learned about DesignEDGE '05, or the IdN conference during a recent trip to Hong Kong with photographer **Steve Tirona**. While I scrounged around for designer clothes, I had learned about his obsession for a different kind of designer stuff. I'm not talking Prada-Gucci here, but more of Nigo's A Bathing Ape-Jun Takahashi Undercover kind. These duds can be classified under "subculture stuff," but it's even more of a luxury if you really think about it. It's harder to find and there are more chances that you won't bump into anyone with the same status bag like that LV-Fendi-Versace that you are clutching. It's far too dressed down for my taste though—but that's a different story.

These days when the 'culture-subculture ratio has gone upside down, you find the two cross referencing each other. Thus, fashion's newfound obsession with toys. The latest Visionaire "Toys" issue has different designers using an egg toy as canvas for their design. It sold really well that they came up with another issue entitled, "More Toys." And again, I'm not talking Barbie or Bratz, more of Qee Knuckle Bear, Devil Robots, Takashi Murakami and Rolitoboy figures, which are having a field day at designer emporiums like Colette. In an art context, these adult collectible figures continue to break the border between product design and graphics.

Aside from the designer toy phenomenon, we have fashion's obsession with "limited edition" anything. Fashion folk may not be aware of it, but all of the above nuances of style today stemmed from the subculture culture.

Dorothy on acid

Super! arrived a day before the event in Suntec Convention Center in Singapore to make a quick inspection of the venue while the designers were setting up their booths. The gigantic hall devoted to influencing the influencers had seven pavilions—seven playgrounds that focused on animation, music, fashion, print, urban, interactive and art related matters. It surrounded a stage that had a hundred or so specially designed (by Faile, Answer and Mo' Wax) "limited edition" beanbags scattered at the audience level.

At first the size of the venue was intimidating. But up close, all the booths were actually designed for human interaction. "The creative mind is the creative mind. We didn't put this up to show off technology. Everything is made to showcase how the human being is the master of it all," explained **Lawrence Ng**, founder of IdN magazine and organizer of this creative summit. After our very inspiring one-on-one, I explored every nook and cranny of this land of creative milk and experimental honey.

It was an invigorating walk in the park, seeing giant flowers automatically inflate and deflate in the Korean pavilion. I observed HP computer printed visuals on top of balloons relying on the weight of Chinese take out boxes filled with rice. I went inside corridors where they showed short films on still life objects and played with planets and rubber balls against the motion-sensored screen. I interacted with robots, hobnobbed with the Japanese and took photos of the Filipinos present at the event. I felt like Dorothy on acid.

The next few days would take me out of Suntec Convention Center and within the confines of Singapore City, where every convention, workshop, gallery and exhibit was but a ten-minute (max!) drive away. We went to meet with leaders of the Singapore design community, a tremendous talent pool of forward thinkers who are deadset on putting their nation on the global design map. Among them were **Ban Y J**, chairman of Stikfas toys, a Singapore toy company that just signed a deal with Hasbro; **Colin Seah** of Ministry of Design, who is designing the look of the New Majestic Hotel, a new boutique hotel (from the same people behind Hotel 1929) due to open January 2006; **Mark Wee** and **Bruce Ngam** of DP Architects, the same company that gave birth to the cultural icon that is the Esplanade and **Christopher Lee**, creative director of Asylum, a fashion house that doubles as an art studio and workshop near Club Street.

All of the above are young, dynamic and passionate to succeed. Speaking with these Singapore shakers, no matter how driven and focused they were in getting to their goals, I got the impression that they felt insecure about Singapore's cultural infancy. I told them to use their relative youth as an advantage to learn more about their identity and contribute to it. "You don't forge an identity. You earn an identity. But to earn it, you have to create great work," I recall **Richard Seymour**, one half of Seymourpowell (who designs for Nokia, Dell, Yamaha, Jaguar, among other companies) and member of DesignSingapore International Advisory Panel, tell the media during a press conference at the Ritz Carlton.

A face to show the world

Speaking of which, the above-mentioned panel was formed to act as a think-tank to further etch Singapore's position as center of design. Other members include **Christopher Bangle**, design director of the BMW group, **Terence Conran**, arbiter of modern British taste, **Steve Hayden**, vice chair of Ogilvy and Mather Worldwide and world-renowned Japanese architects **Toshiyuki Kita** and **Toyo Ito**.

"What you need is to go through an incubation period—to really find the talented people and nurture them from the time they're young—to allow things to evolve." "It's a paradox, but creativity somehow needs chaos to be able to grow." "What we need is a brand. We need a face to show the world." These and many other schools of thought pertinent to design and a nation's creativity were discussed in that intimate conference with global design leaders.

What I absorbed in the end is that the real impediment to growth in terms of creativity is a lack of appetite for rapid change. Artists are there to inspire and provoke thought and action. The role of design is to realize the added value of any culture and bring it to the forefront.

At the Suntec convention center, the guest artists didn't fail to inspire the creative minds that had gathered to hear the gospel according to **Kostas Seremetis**. "I don't go by any rules. I didn't go to art school so I just go by feel. Art is like science. We're trying to find a formula that fits into our vocabulary," said the bearded artist, who was greeted with applause from his hungry audience.

I came across a semi-blank canvas swarmed by illustrators making their marks, so to speak. Watching them and seeing the works coming to life was such a joy. My trance-like state was interrupted when one of them handed me a pen, and invited me to join in on the fun. Ngyarks! I though to myself, I didn't want to ruin the artwork. But knowing that I was a blonde speck of dust in that artist's universe, I obliged, and started doodling my masterpiece—Fido Didos in playful disarray in a sea of intricate and elaborately designed works of my neighbors. And then one of them looked at me and said, "*Kamusta dyan?*"

Pursuing stuff

I turned red because I didn't realize the "*galeng*" artists filling up the canvas were Filipinos as well. My doodles looked like instant ramen compared to their Wagyu burgers.

"*Tuloy mo yan*," they encouraged the frustrated artist in me. Even if I'm a very visual person, the one kingdom I haven't conquered yet is the free hand reverie. (That and singing.)

There will always be hurdles in channeling our creative forces. But there are many ways on how we can get through these humps and go to our finish lines, and beyond. Whether we look at it head on or come from the periphery, there is always a way. As **Jean Cocteau** said, "Life is falling sideways."

Singaporean toy maker Ban Y J, put it in his own words when he said, "When we think of something, we don't stop there," while tinkering with his own design, the Stikfas toy. "We pursue stuff."

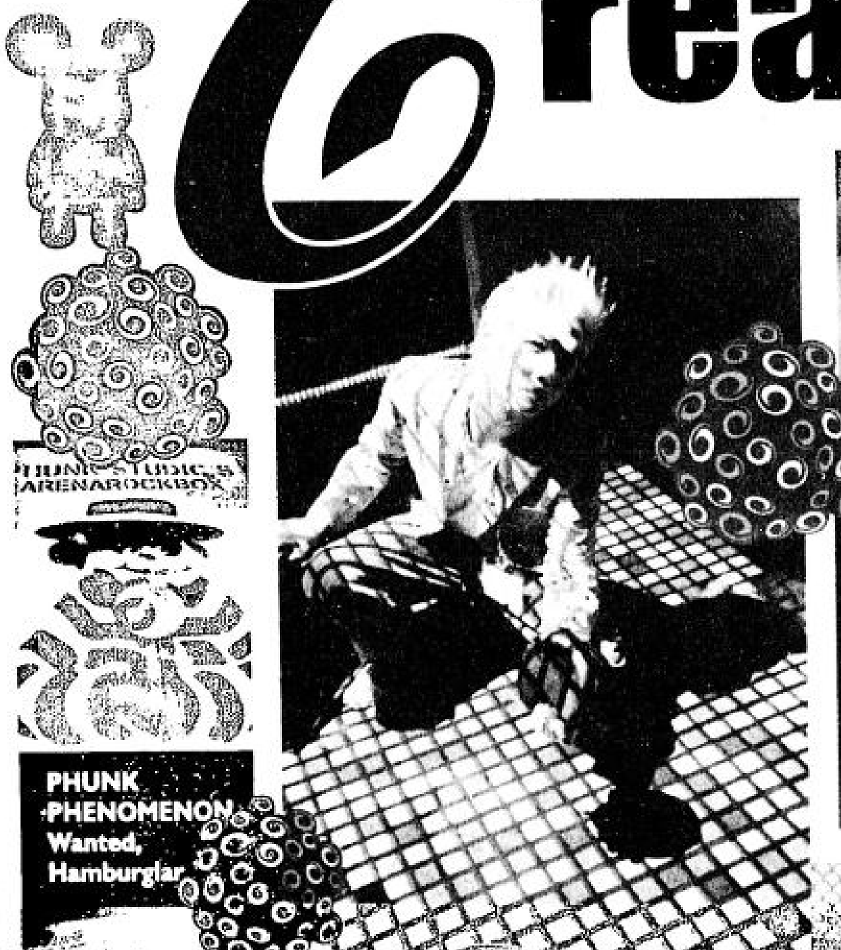
"I am"—two very powerful words that when attached to anything, instantly empowers it. I am brave. I am fearless. I am forward-thinking. I am good. I am Super! The great power lies in being able to revolutionize yourself. After all, even the world's most renowned genius with a bad hair day, **Albert Einstein** said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge."

What you are holding right now is Super's special tribute to design. Right smack center of the city's holiday rush, instead of indulging you with thoughts on how to spend your money to further expand your Christmas tree, we aim to empower you, our Super! reader with the gift of creativity.

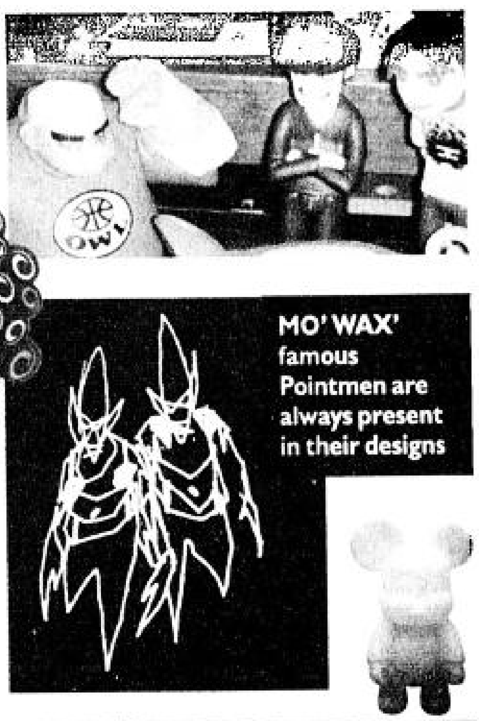
The Future Is Unwritten

SINGAPORE STIKFAS. Toy afficionado Ban Y J

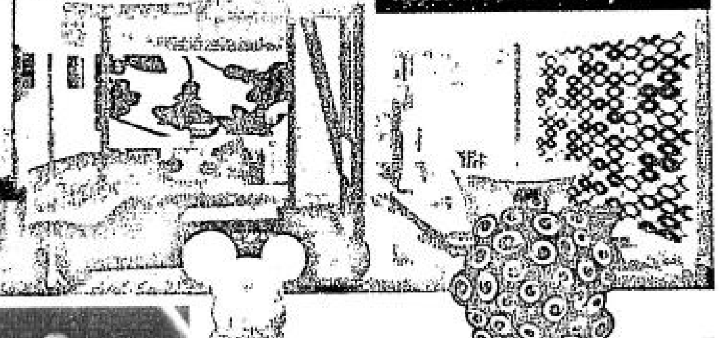
ELECTRO LYCHEE. Marcushiro plus Bru



PHUNK PHENOMENON. Wanted, Hamburglar



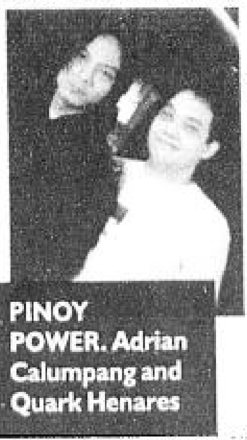
MO' WAX' famous Pointmen are always present in their designs



COMING THIS JANUARY 2006. The New Majestic Hotel, the newest boutique hotel in the Lion City

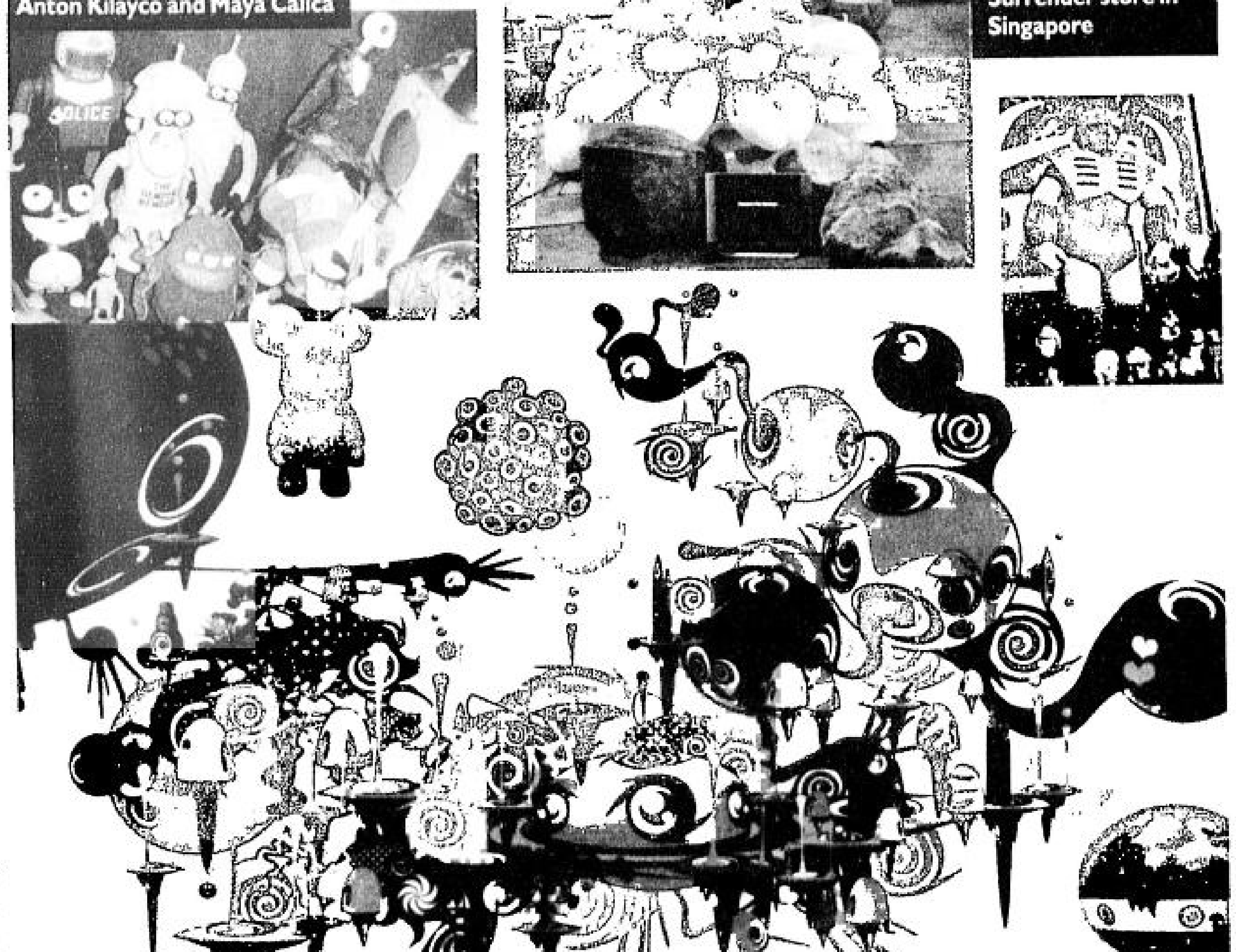
WELCOME to the Super! team, Adi

PINOY SINGAPORE SLINGS. Anton Kilayco and Maya Calica



PINOY POWER. Adrian Calumpang and Quark Henares

COLLABORATIONS. Kostas at the Surrender store in Singapore



PHUNK STUDIO. Graphics from the 9-meter mural at hotspot Coccolatte in Singapore

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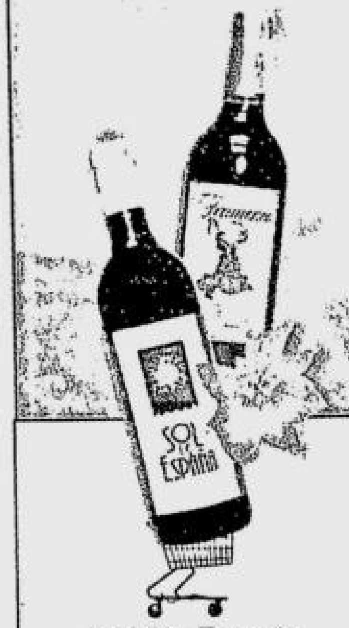

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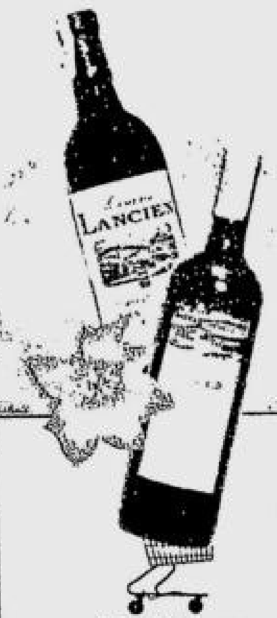

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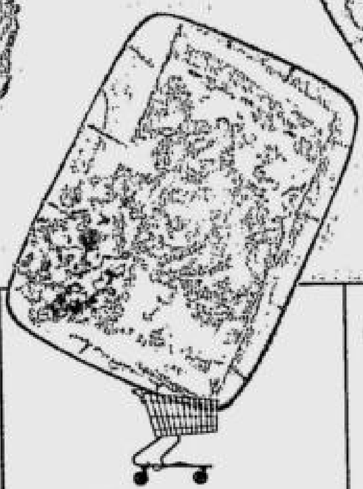

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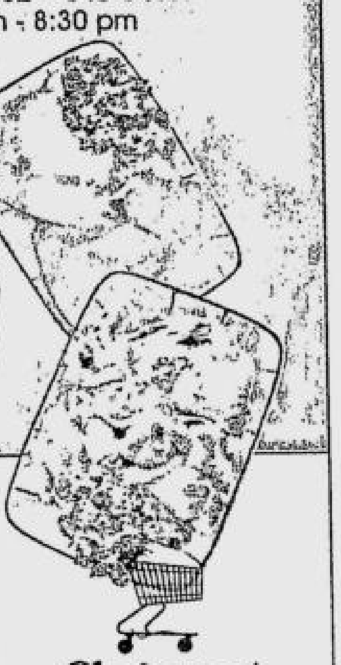

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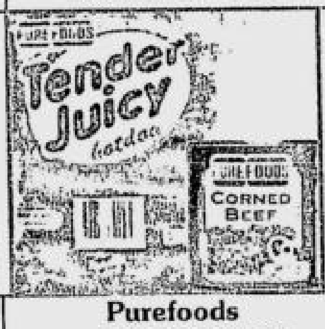

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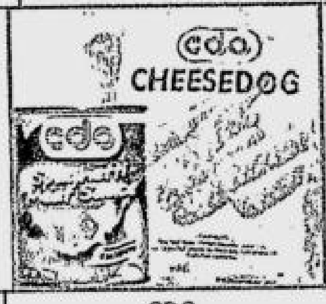

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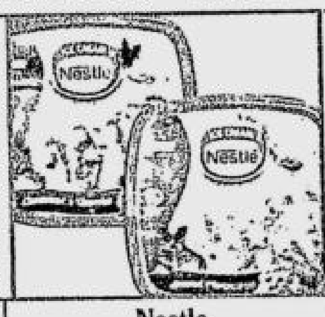

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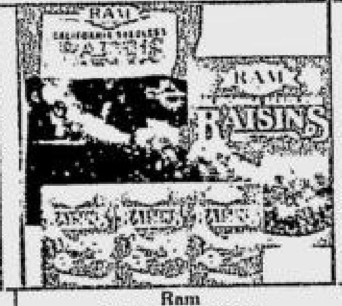

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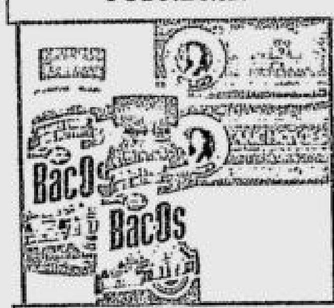
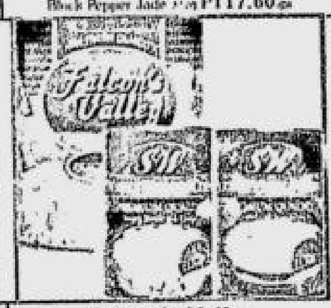
Rich Taste
Water Chestnut 567g P28.50/can
Whole Mushroom [illegible] P14.75/can
Wei-Chuan
Water Chestnut Whole, Slices
227g P23.00/can
Young Corn Spears 227g P21.50/can

Eagle Coin
Grass Jelly 530g P25.50/can
Fried Dace Black Beans
184g P54.50/can
Fried Dace Plain 184g P58.00/can

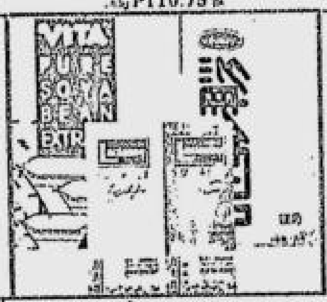
Mrs. Cubbison
Croutons Seasoned, Ceasar, Fat Free
Herb, Cheese & Garlic, Ranch
156g 170g P101.00/pk
Albers
Yellow Corn Meal [illegible] P85.50/box



Bacos
Chips Bits 113g P90.50/bot
Doña Elena
Flat Anchovies
50g P60.00/jar 365g P325.00/jar
Rolled Anchovies 56g P64.00/jar



Falcon's Valley
Peach Halves 822g P59.60/can
S&W
Cream Style Corn 418g
Whole Corn 432g P25.50/can

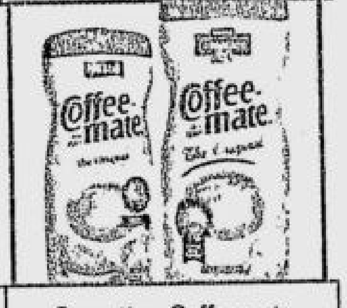


Lactasoy
Soymilk w/ Green Tea, Soymilk Light
200ml P12.35/tetra
Vitasoy
Pure Soya Bean Extract 1l P56.50/tetra
Soyabean Milk 1l P58.50/tetra

Sun-Maid Raisin
6's P62.70/pk 500g P110.20/can
Tang Orange
8.5l P180.50/jug

Sunlee
Jasmine Rice 5kg P280.25/bag
Nissin Cup Noodle USA
64g P28.00/cup

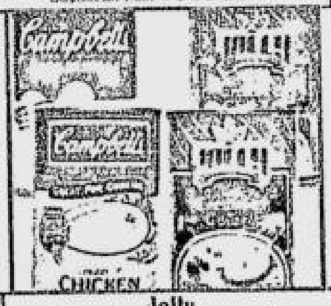
Sunchips
Harvest Cheddar 184g P83.80/pk
Jacobsen
Danish Butter Cookies 454g P112.50/pk
Beautiful Denmark Macadamia Cookies
200g P68.00/pk



Carnation Coffeemate
70g P62.50/bot 312g P91.50/bot
454g P125.50/bot 624g P160.50/bot

Dona Elena
Sardines in Tomato Sauce, Spiced in Veg. Oil,
in Veg. Oil 125g P43.00/can
Ramirez
Sardines in Tomato Sauce,
in Veg. Oil 125g P45.50/can

Old Orchard
Healthy Balance Cranberry 1.9l P177.00/bot
Apple 1.9l P132.00/bot
Nature's Path
Soy Granola 425g P137.00/pk
Optimum Power Breakfast 397g P182.00/pk



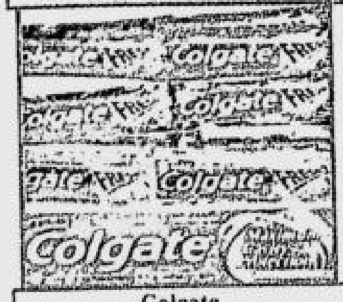
Jolly
Cream of Chicken, Cream of Celery
298g P32.50/can
Campbell's
Cream of Chicken, Chicken Noodle
298g P36.50/can

Bravo
Orange Nectar 1l P55.50/tetra
Rauch Nativa
Green Tea w/ Lemon
1l P55.50/tetra

Jolly
Corn Oil 2l P187.00/bot
Soya Oil 2l P157.00/bot
Canola Oil 2l P167.00/bot

Don Simon Red/White Wine
75cl P117.50/bot 1l P136.30/bot
Doña Elena Red/White Wine
750ml P101.00/bot
Callejon Tetra Red Table Wine
1l P88.00/tetra

A-1 Steak Sauce
283g P150.50/bot
Bold & Spicy, Sweet & Tangy,
Thick & Hearty 283g P151.50/bot
Grey Poupon
Dijon Mustard Squeeze 283g P116.25/bot



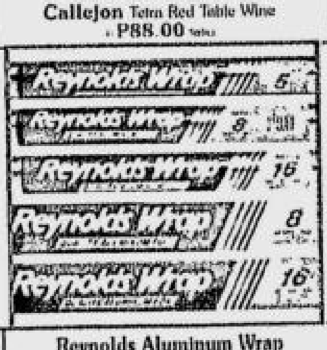
Colgate
Great Flavor Regular
150ml P64.90/tube 10ml P57.60/12's
Fresh Confidence
(Green, red, Yellow, Blue, Spicy Red, P. Ice)
10ml P57.60/12's

Sanicare
Bathroom Tissue 600's
9rolls P124.20/bag
Jade
Bathroom Tissue 300's 48s P319.50/bag
Table Napkin 350 sheets P85.50/bag

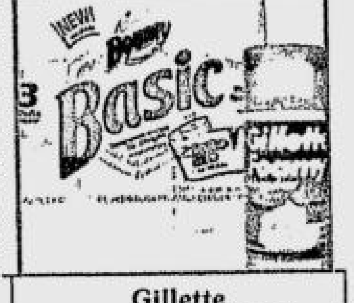
EQ Dry Diaper Econo
Small 40's, Medium 36's,
Large 32's, XL 28's
P242.00/pk

Rejoice [illegible] **Pantene** [illegible]
Head & Shoulders Shampoo Clean & Balanced [illegible] P1.80 [illegible]
Downy [illegible] P4.10 [illegible]
[illegible] P281.50 [illegible]
Pampers Diaper
All Night Regular [illegible] P77.80 [illegible] P84.00 [illegible] P72.75
All Night Econo Pack [illegible] P151.50 [illegible]
All Night Value Pack [illegible] P376.50 [illegible]

Surf Christmas Pine
Bar 155g P6.05/bar 480g P16.55/bar
Powder 80g P5.95/pk [illegible] P91.10/pk
Vaseline
Thick & Clean Shampoo
15ml P3.50/sachet 100ml P37.35/bot
200ml P68.90/bot



Reynolds Aluminum Wrap
Standard 8m/30cm P63.70/box
Refill 8m P52.30/roll
Standard 16m P117.00/box
Refill 16m P104.00/roll Sampler 5m P39.00/roll



Gillette
Foamy Regular 418g P70.70/can
Bounty
Paper Towel 3rolls P196.95/pk

Marcushiro's pretty fly

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

TAKE YOUR CONCEPTIONS OF art and what it should be, stuff it in a box, and keep it in a closet, folks.

Then troop to Pinoy artist (slash nice guy) Marcushiro's first solo exhibit called "Bitter Hatshop with Volume Beyond Control" in Cubao X, a place y'all should see.

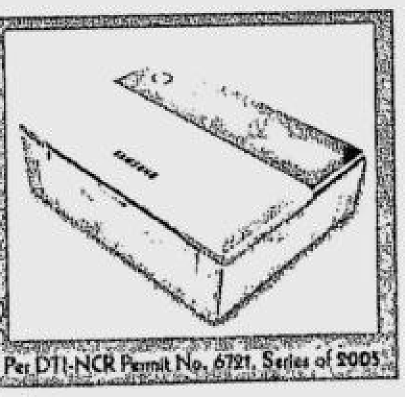
Representing Cubao in all its filth and splendor with paints and panel boards, Marcushiro is out destroying borders and exploring diverse techniques. When we see his works, we know this guy believes there is no right or wrong when it comes to splashing imagery all over.

"Serendipity is the new methodology," Marcushiro says. His fear of a clean sheet of paper has gone a long way, as he takes his design, illustration and urban art sensibilities in unconventional levels.

If you've never been to an art exhibit, now's the time to start. It's an experience—so drop your PSPs and Nanos, and go back to one of man's first forms of expression. Don't worry if you know crap about art theory and criticism and deep stuff like that. Well, at least Marcushiro's work isn't about that.

Check out his works and see why we think Marcushiro's not just in *the circle*, or around it—he's *the circle*.

Marcushiro's first solo exhibit runs until Dec. 9 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays at Pablo, 7 Marikina Shoe Expo, Cubao. Want more? Take a peek at www.electrolychee.com



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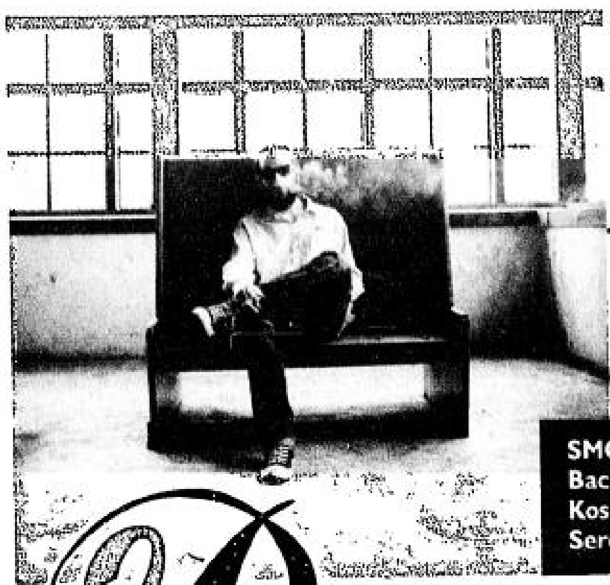
Designers in excess



SMOKEY EYES. Backstage with Kostas Seremetis

LOTSA KISSES. Specially designed limited edition bean bags scattered Suntec City

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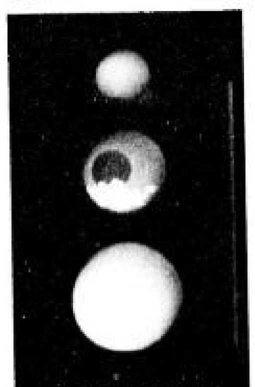
SINGAPORE PRIDE. The Phunk Studio installation at DesignEdge '05

By Adeline Ooi
Photos by Steve Tirona

"COLLABORATION!", "CROSSOVERS!" ARE the recurring buzzwords lobbed back and forth at DesignEdge 2005 conference in Singapore. The Designers Republic, Ben Drury, Answer, Delta, Mode2, Kostas Seremetis, Maharishi, Faile, Rostarr, Henry Lavelle for Mo'Wax Art, United Visual Artists, D-Fuse, Kazuki Kuraishi are among the heavyweights in this conference's stellar line up. For three full days, the grand gurus of creative design came together to speak about their work, signed autographs, launched their latest merchandise, conducted demonstrations, posed for pictures with diehard fans and hung out with each other. It is hardly surprising that many among them are close friends and collaborators who have worked on projects together. They are icons and pioneers of their respective fields; versatile designer/artists responsible for some of the most memorable images seen on screen and in print, for the limited edition t-shirts and crossover toys, sneakers, CD-box sets, books and accessories we so desperately lust for on E-bay and in various other websites. They paint, they rap, they design, they make t-shirts, they sculpt, they DJ and dance like there's no tomorrow. Speak to them about their work and you will hear the intense passion ringing in their voice; they will also tell you that they had not planned for the fame and success they are currently enjoying—and "the money ain't that good, despite what you think."

Adeline Ooi is a curator/writer who divides her time between Kuala Lumpur, Manila and the rest of Southeast Asia.



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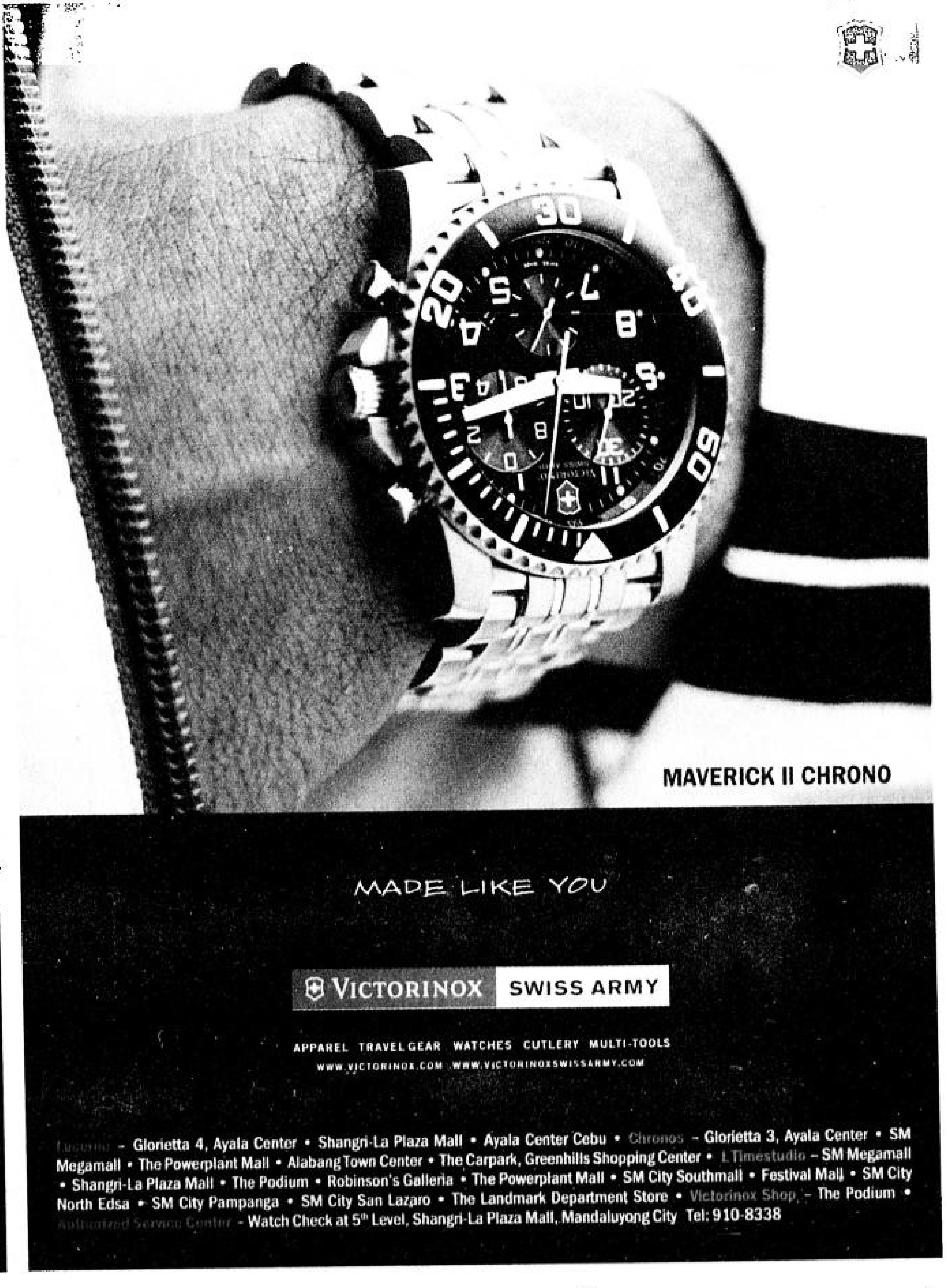

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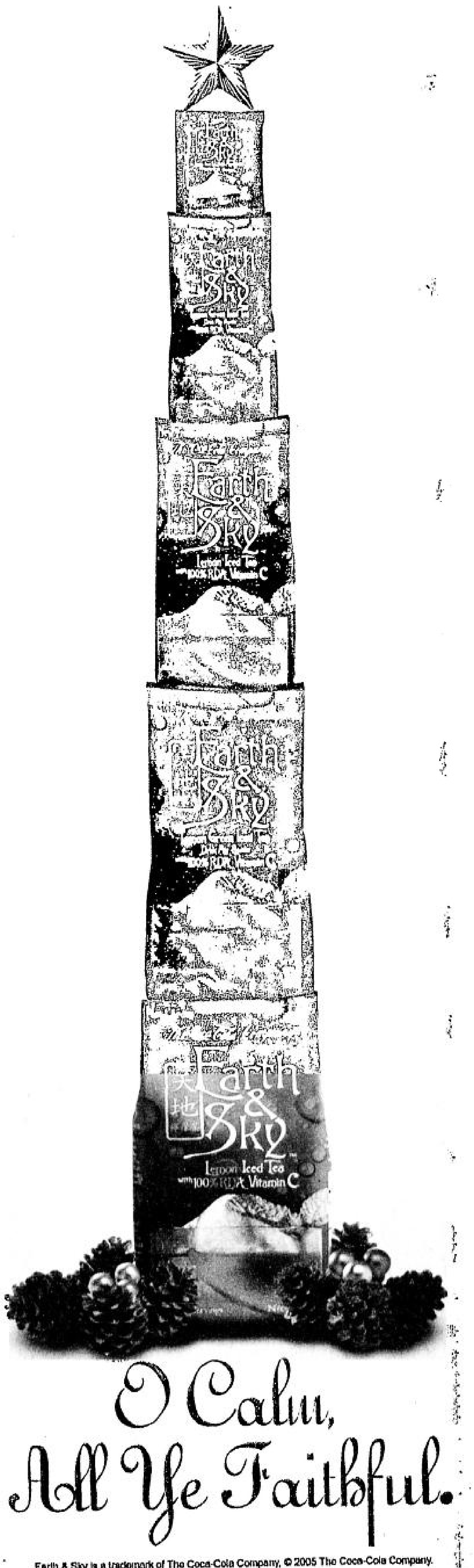

O Calm,
All Ye Faithful.

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Designers in excess

Photos by Steve Tirona
Special thanks
to DesignSingapore Council,
Singapore Tourism Board,
Nancy Harrel and Associates,
and Norelyn Babiera

Hardy Blechman of Maharishi

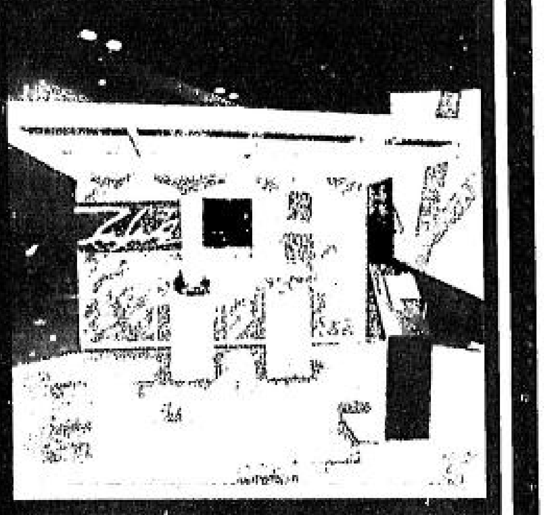
By Adeline Ooi

COME ON, ASK ME, ASK me all the questions you want, I can talk all day about Maharishi and I can go on forever talking about camo!" rattles Hardy Blechman excitedly. Best known for their 'snopants,' the Maharishi brand has been extremely influential in the use of camouflage in streetwear over the past decade and is respected for its eco-friendly philosophy. In 2000, Maharishi was awarded "Streetwear Designer of the Year" at the British Fashion Council Awards. "Maharishi is also concerned about its philosophy; it's not just fashion but it's about combining aesthetics, style and ergonomics. It's about paying attention to the quality of your product, and by that I will tell you that everything we make is sourced from the best materials—and if we can't find what we want, we will make them! Which is why our production cost is so high, because of the research development process. What's the point in doing something half-baked? It doesn't make sense. If you are going to do it, then DO IT WELL," Hardy said.

Apart from the Maharishi's camo trademark, Creative Director Hardy Blechman has recently published his 7 years of research called Disruptive Pattern Material (DPM), which charts the history of camouflage from its roots in nature, through to its adoption by the military, and on to its current popularity and use within modern civilian culture. "To do something well requires the investment of time and energy; that's the only way you'll get it right. And trust me when I tell you, I'm still learning, its never-ending."

What sets this group of designers and artists apart is their individual character—edgy, low-key, and talented as hell. It was never about making big statements and their work has never tried to keep up with market demands. "It was always about trying new ideas, keeping it loose, keeping it real, and have some fun..." says graphic designer/artist Rostarr (Romon Yang). Sure, some of them will collaborate with the big boys like Nike, Levi's or Puma every now and then—"try everything once, why not?"

"I am all for artists showing their work and getting it out there. Communication is so important to mankind. Why not work with Nike, if they are willing to give you creative control and pay you at the same time? Why should an artist suffer for his art? The money ain't dirty, its about respect, its about allowing artists like us with an opportunity to live through our art."



The Designers Republic

By Shannen Torres

SUPER! HAD THE CHANCE TO GET to know Ian Anderson, founder of Designers Republic in 1986, amidst the live presentations. His company's minimal approach to design has become so popular that they have been branded as "The World's Most Copied Design Company."

Designers Republic has an extensive portfolio—from pop promos, television advertising to video games and guerrilla marketing. They've worked with big brands like Coke, Nokia and Nike and played a part in bringing Grand Theft Auto and Wipeout to life. Known for groundbreaking design, their work has earned them commercial recognition and has given them the creative ability to get involved low budget productions that they believe in.

Here are Ian Anderson's thoughts on design and creativity.

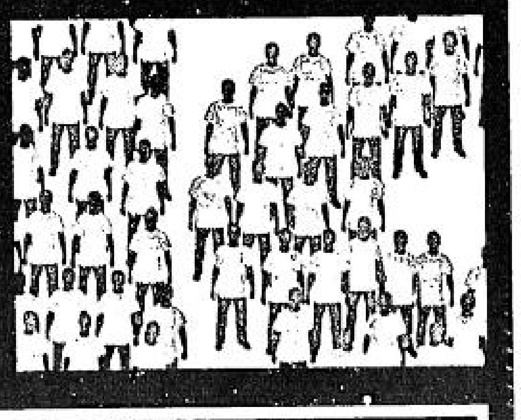
On copycats: He feels it's the designers' loss if they choose to imitate rather than pick their own brains for something that's fresh and explore the endless design possibilities out there.

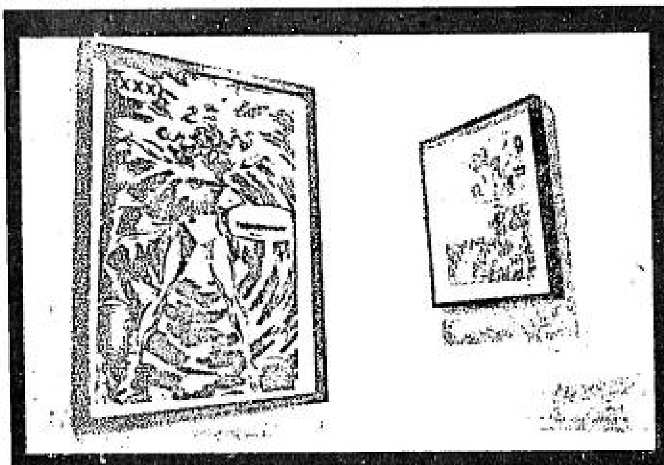
On collaboration: Ian believes in collaboration as long as there's still someone to approve and disapprove concepts, ideas and other decisions involved in the process and creation of the final artwork.

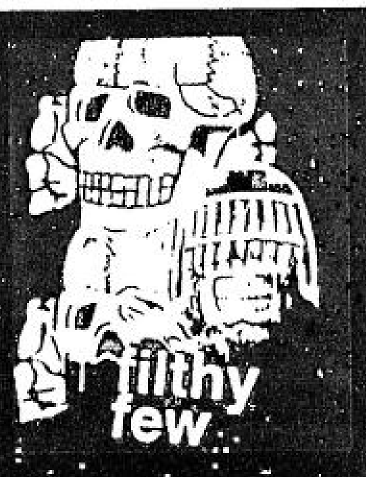
On technological advancement: For Ian, technological advancement has given the industry a double-edged sword, providing it with tools for improvement.

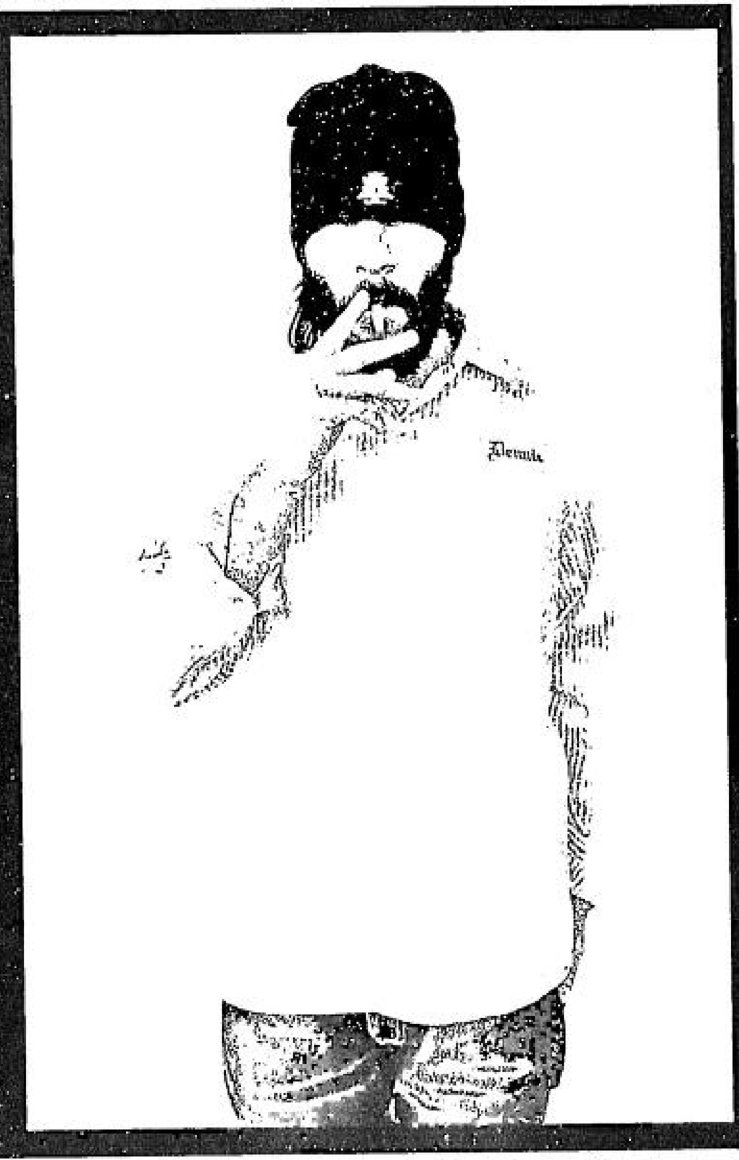
On commercialism: Ian stresses the importance of finding the right balance between commercialism and art. The Designers Republic strive to guide their clients in the right direction to bridge the gap between two closely linked industries.

On their recipe for success: "Great thinkers, great designers and a whole lot of soul."







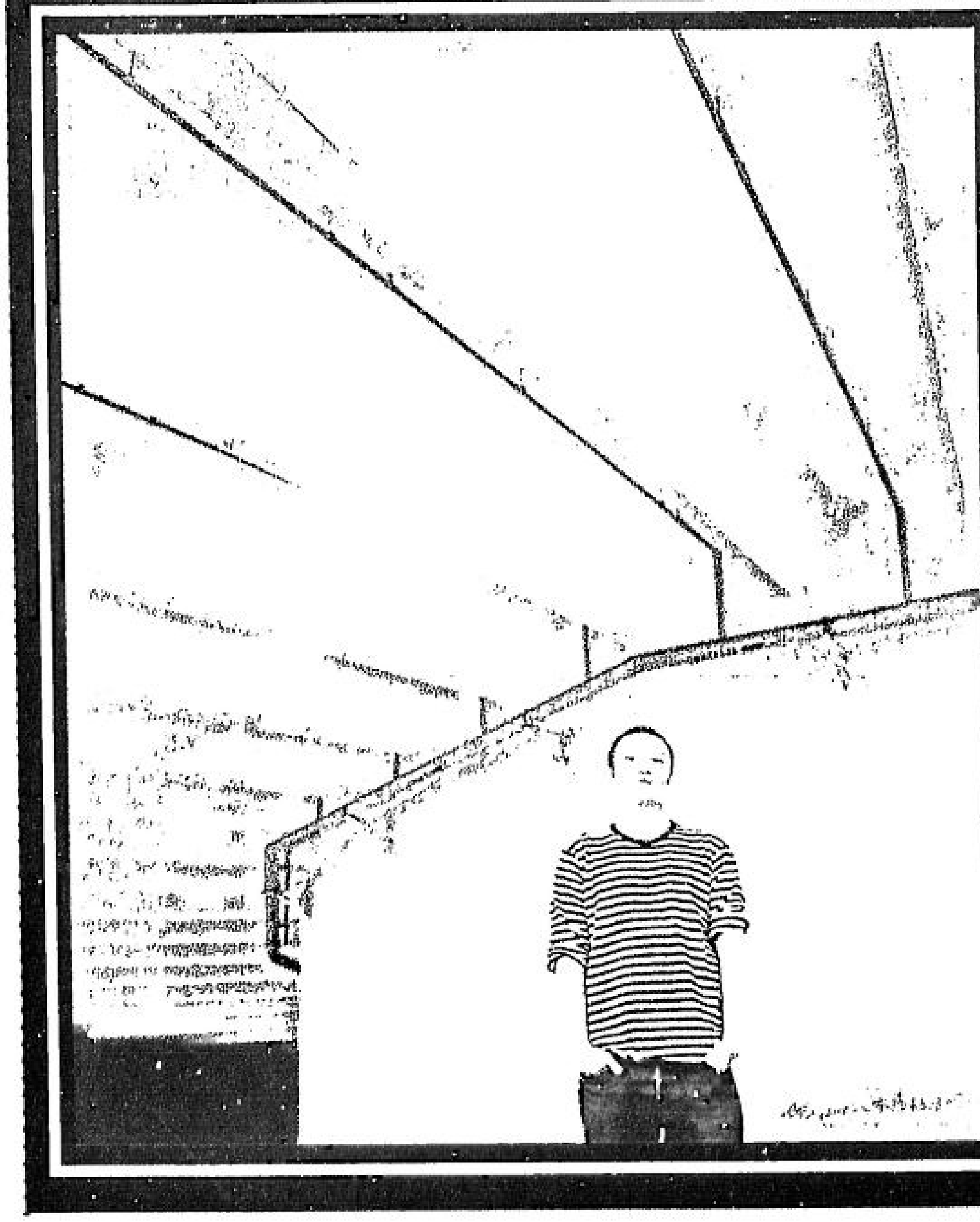


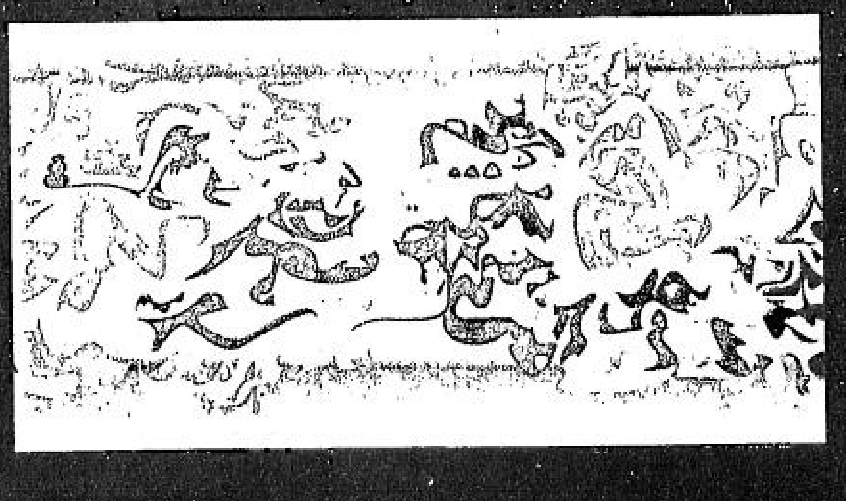
Kostas Seremetis

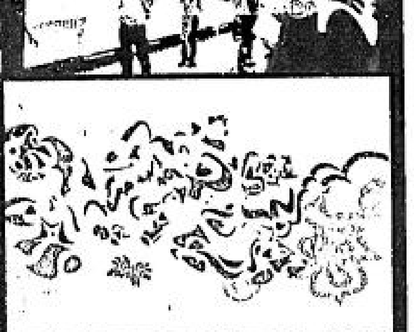
I SAT DOWN WITH THE New York-based Kostas Seremetis to do a bit of hero-worshipping. Kostas' work delves into the core of social political issues and uses icons derived from comic book and anti-establishment Marxist principles as a springboard for further discourse on the social justices and injustices of today. He represents our decade, a radical iconoclastic thinker, whose work evolves across media and through experimentation in production techniques and form. And over the years, he has garnered a loyal following of fans and collectors alike, in numerous exhibitions across continents, including New York, Los Angeles, London, Berlin, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Paris. "Sure the attention is flattering, but I'm just a regular guy with a family and dog to go home to. Right now, my friend is really pissed at me for missing his birthday party back home."

"As for my art, you just gotta keep at it man, keep working, keep painting—that's how I develop my mind and thoughts. That's how you grow. People tell me I'm successful; what is success anyway? Monetary terms, artistically, or poetically? I'm just happy to able to be the person that I am, do what I love, work with the people I like. Collaboration? Sure, why not, but I'm a little different. I like to keep to myself; I'm a little shy actually. But that's not the point, the point of collaboration is that is has to be done sensitively. You got to know who you can and cannot work with, and never ever hesitate to say 'NO.'"

Adeline Ooi







Rostarr

WITH MORE AND MORE artists enjoying creativity and freedom, flexibility is one thing that must always remain. According to Romon Yang, known as Rostarr in the design community, finding the balance between the ability to know a client's needs and translating a brand's message in a way that you are happy with is the key to being commercially successful end artistically fulfilled.

Made a household name for his work with Nike, Rostarr had to face people who thought he was compromising his style. But he believes otherwise. He's happy that street art has turned into a very big industry that most advertisers are banking into and that artists are finally getting their dues. Gone are the days when working on cool projects meant no money. Rostarr believes the doors of design have opened wide enough, giving artists the freedom to show their individual styles and encouraging creativity within the boundaries set by clients.

He started as a graphic artist. His first work was with Elektra Records—he wanted to do the Ol' Dirty Bastards cover and then went on to work on other projects including Missy Ellior's Supadupafly album's art.

He believes that having come from an advertising background is an advantage marketing-wise. It's an integral part of success, especially in terms of getting your work out there for everyone to see and appreciate. Moving to art and showing the world his own sense of style, he has been working freelance and is constantly busy on different projects, from graphic design and painting to even making limited edition clothing.

Having collaborated with Barnstormers, a group of artists from different fields of design, since 1999, he feels that it takes a lot of time to find the balance needed for artists to form an appreciation, unspoken understanding and respect for each other's work. He feels that the artist needs to be recognized first as an individual talent before collaborations can be a successful venture.

Shannen Torres

Novel DJ scene out of the Shadows

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno
Photos by Gian Romano and Kiko [illegible]

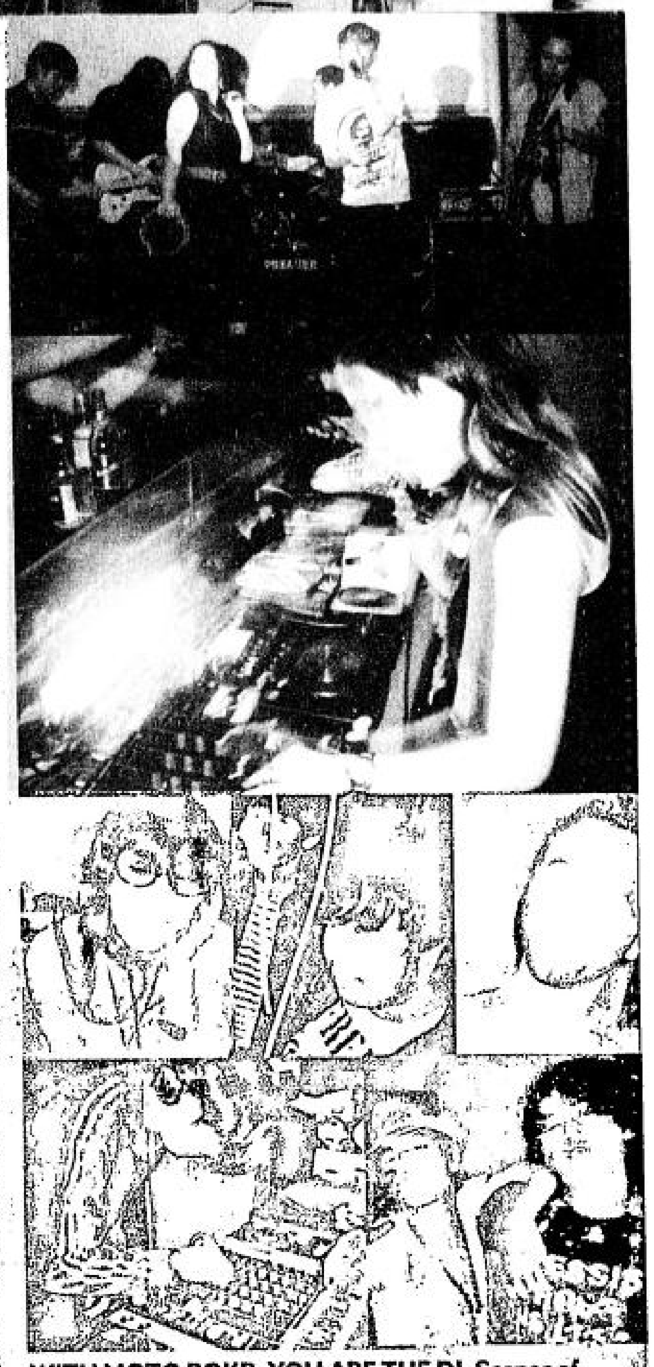
THE PINOY UNDERGROUND CLUB scene, made up of [illegible] you probably don't feel at all. [illegible]

[illegible]

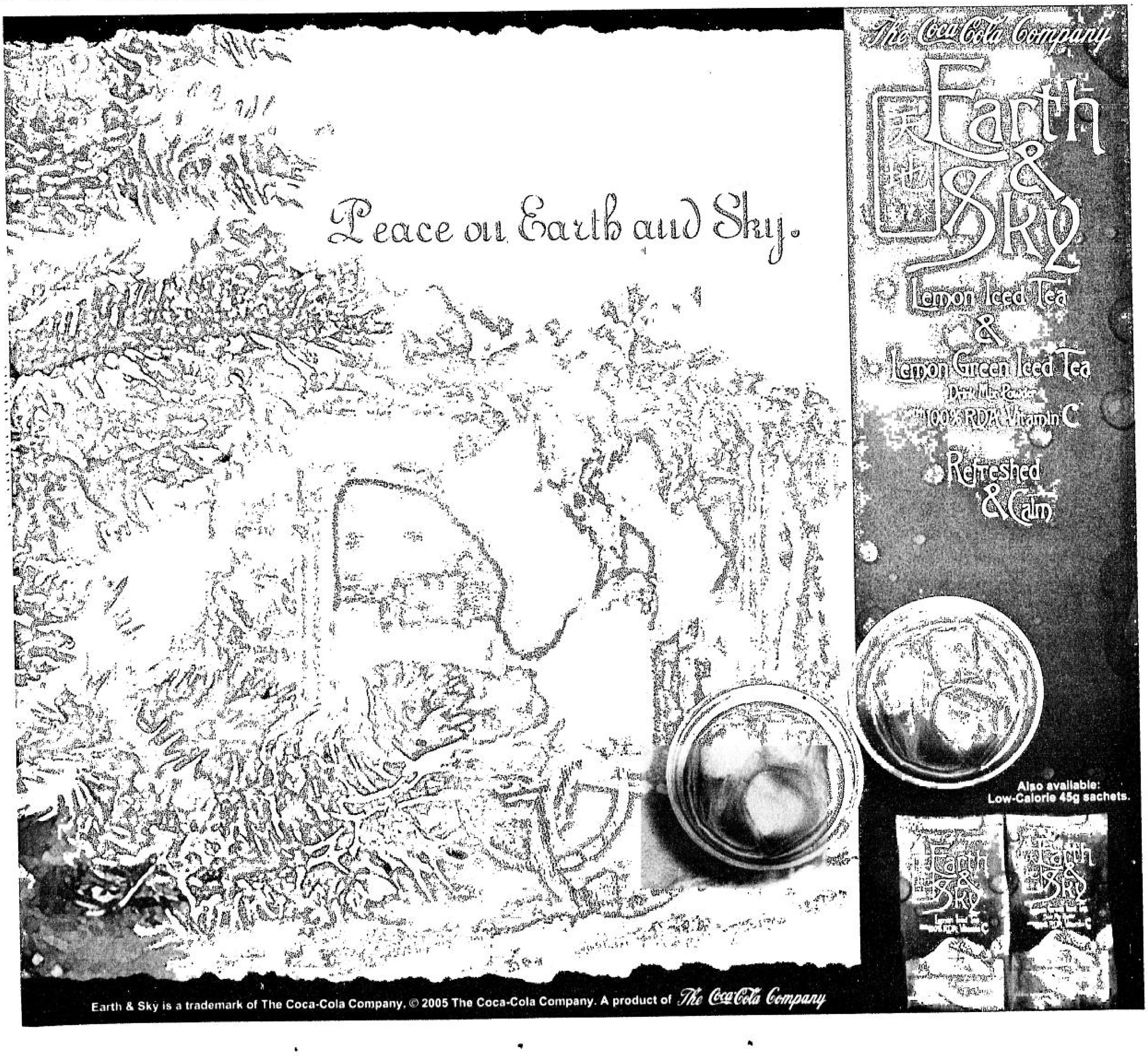
[illegible] Richard, Willy Wanka, Diego vs Diego and [illegible]. Playing in the main room were Day Dream, [illegible] and Roman Mojica.

Good news! Anyone with DJ-ing dreams and rocking talent can join the DJ Search. Registration started at the party last Wednesday, but you can still do it online at www.hellomoto.com/ph. [illegible]

[illegible] $250,000 a year [illegible] Donald Trump [illegible] The Apprentice [illegible]



WITH MOTO ROKR, YOU ARE THE DJ. Scenes of revelry at Manila DJ Club last week



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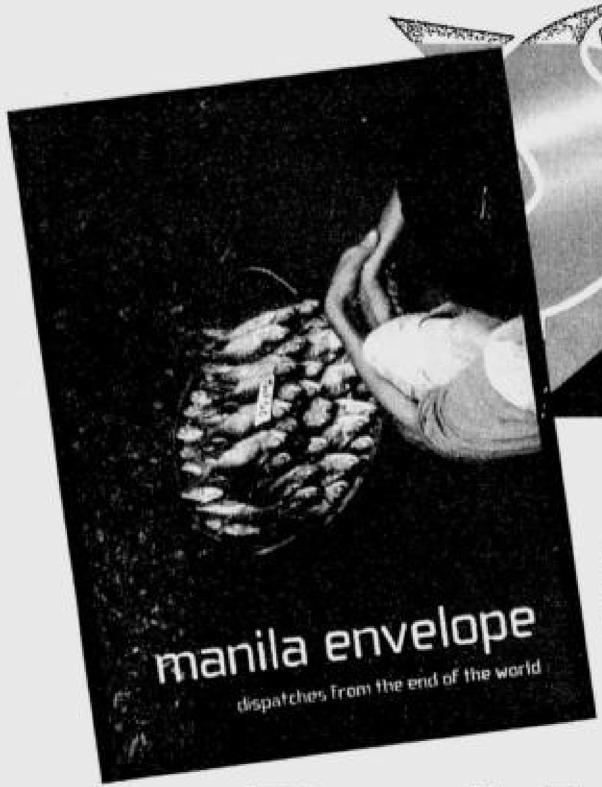

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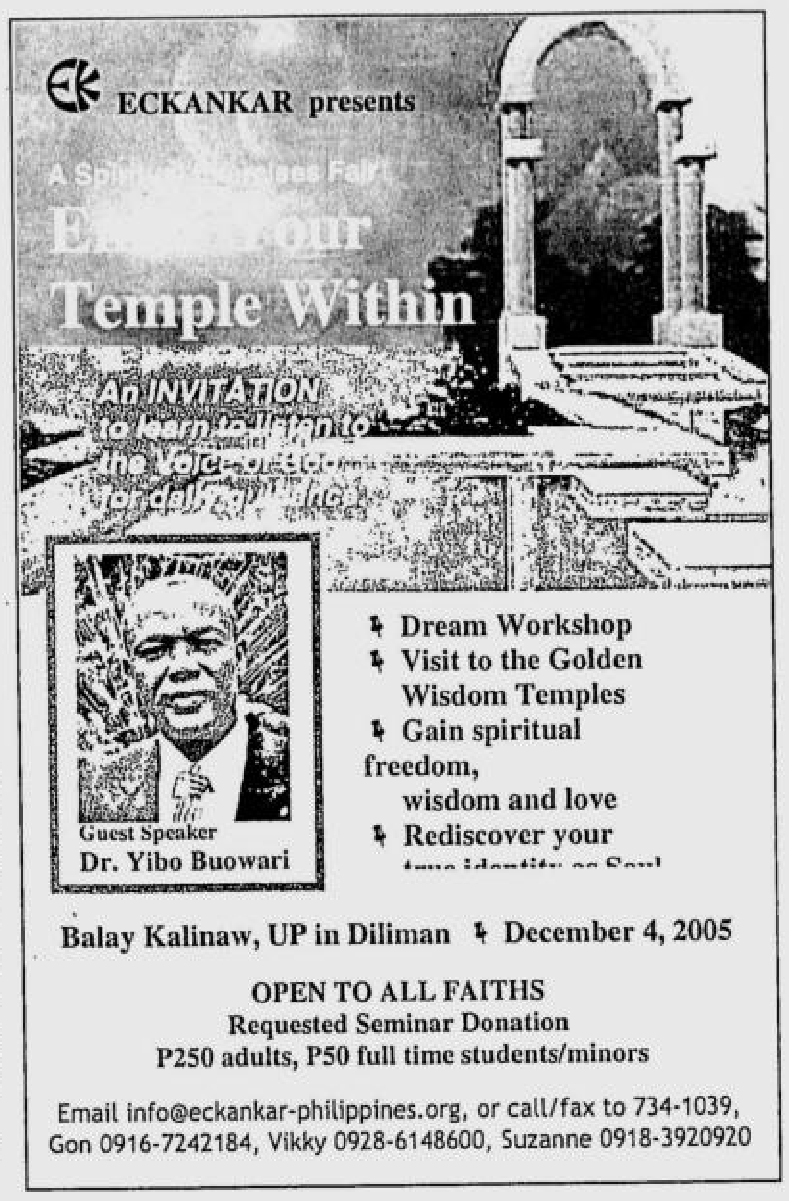
Pushing the (Manila) Envelope

By Tals Diaz

AH, MANILA, SIMPLY NO place like Manila, simply no place like the organic, crazy, silly, profound, chaotic 'lopolis where both the Catholic Church and Hollywood rule. On the pages of Manila Envelope, you're entreated to take a closer look at this city we love, loathe or laugh at. Manila Envelope is a visual gallery; a collective of witty, intelligent articles written by some of today's creative name droppables, such as Krip Yuson, Lourd de Veyra, Conrado de Quiros, Carlos Celdran, Jessica Zafra and Ambeth Ocampo. It is spearheaded by chair and chief creative officer of BBDO, David Guerrero.

Manila Envelope will be launched at Fully Booked Rockwell Power Plant this Dec. 8, Thursday, at 5p.m. Enjoy a cup of coffee during an afternoon of Manila musings!

Sold exclusively at Fully Booked.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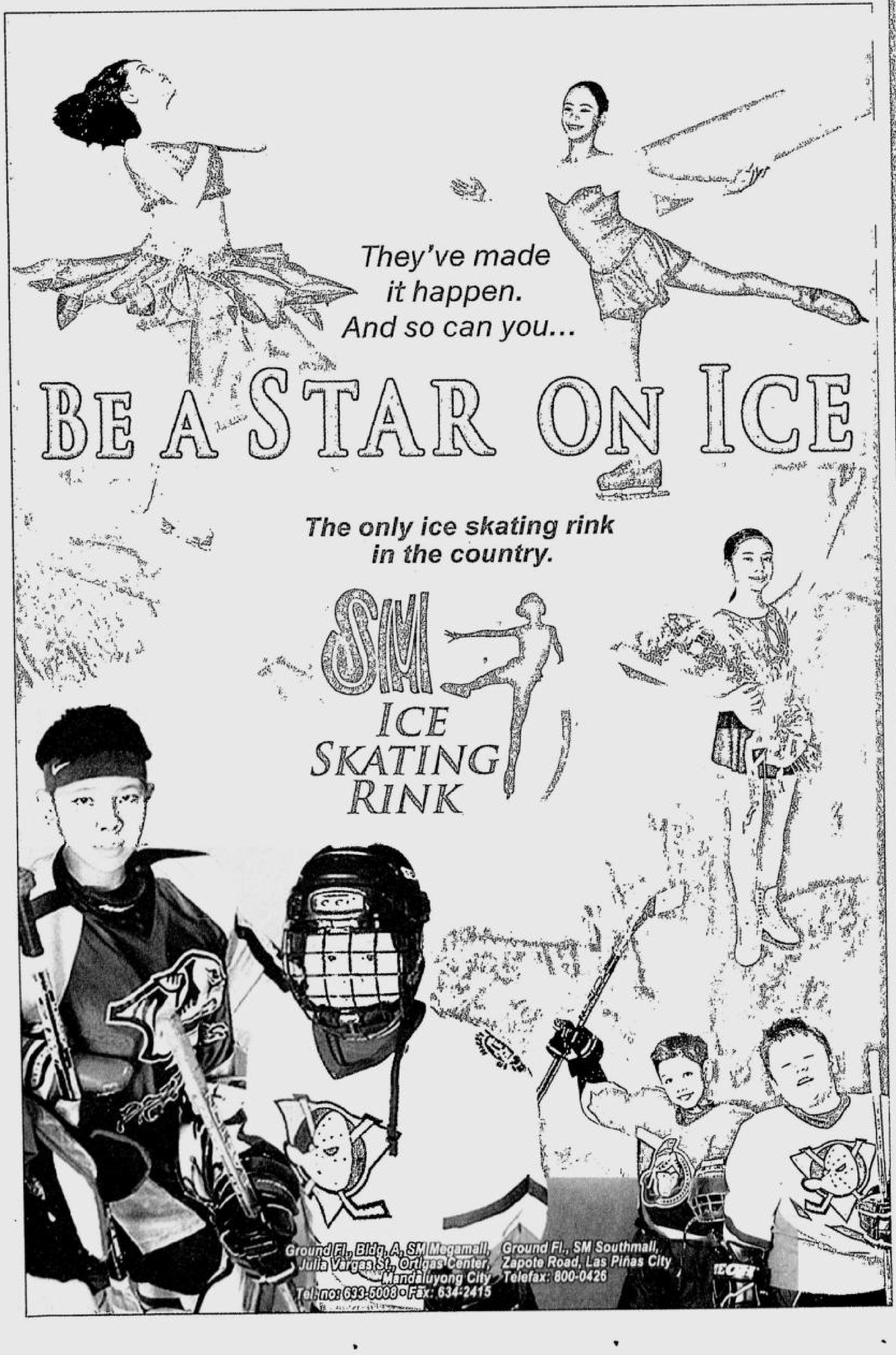
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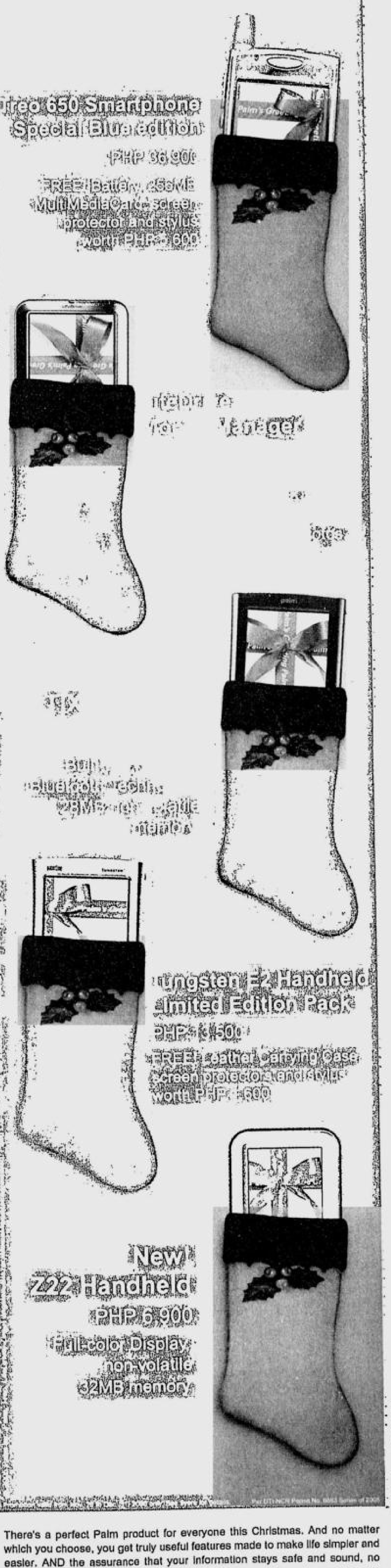
Stuck for gift ideas?

How about a very smart pair of socks...

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FREE! Battery, 256MB
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protector and stylus
worth PHP 5,600

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Z22 Handheld
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32MB memory

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2005

There's a perfect Palm product for everyone this Christmas. And no matter which you choose, you get truly useful features made to make life simpler and easier. AND the assurance that your information stays safe and sound, no matter what happens. **So don't miss out. Give your loved ones the gift of a mobile lifestyle today with these fantastic festive offers.**

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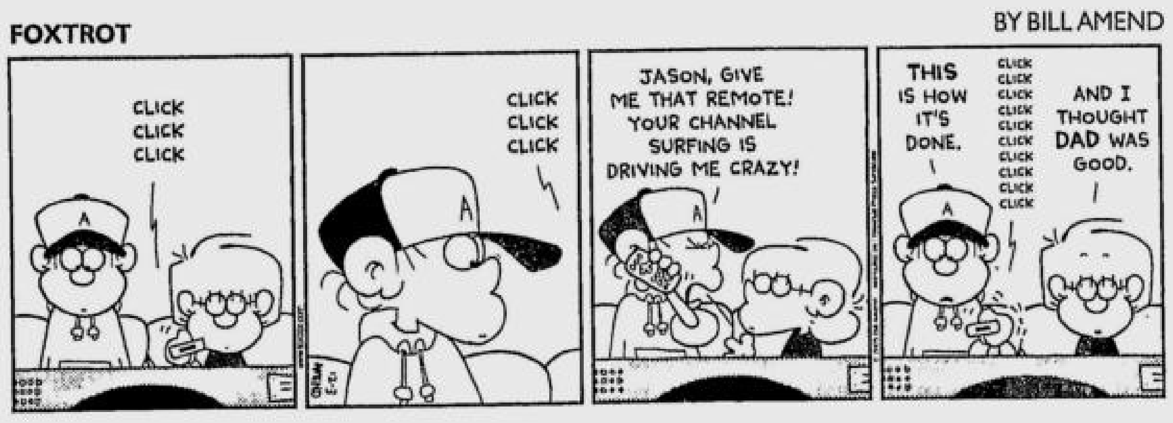
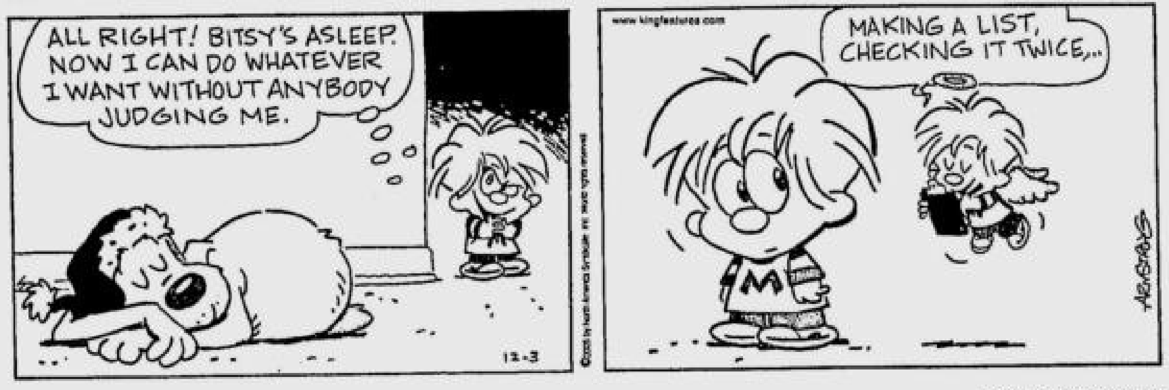
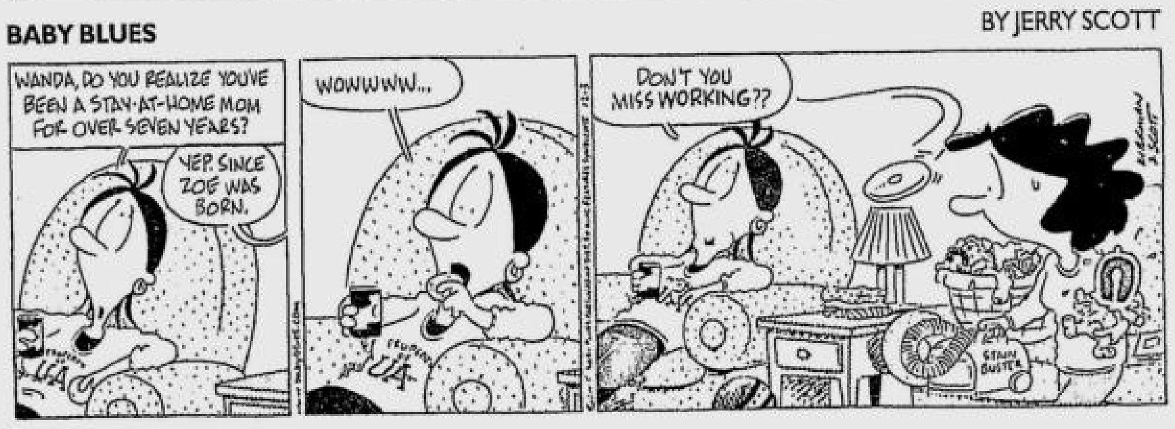
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


CLICK CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK CLICK
JASON, GIVE ME THAT REMOTE! YOUR CHANNEL SURFING IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!
THIS IS HOW IT'S DONE.
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
AND I THOUGHT DAD WAS GOOD.

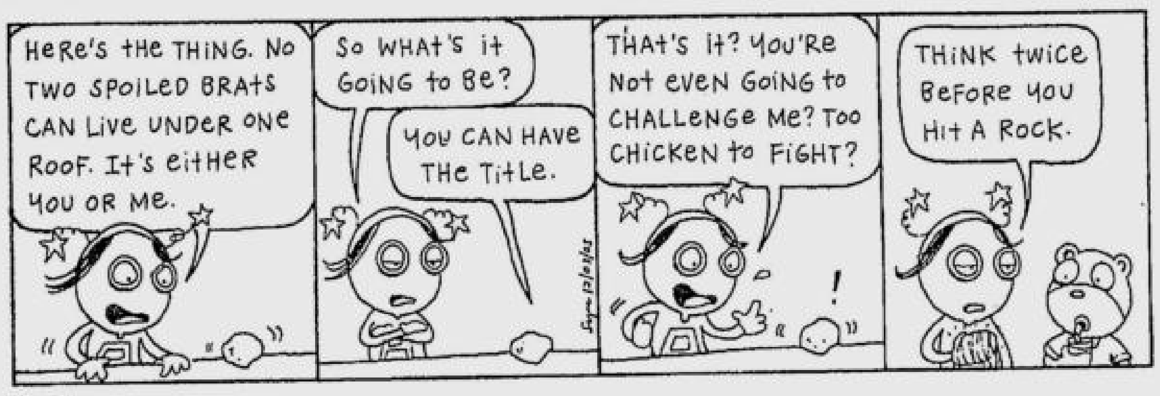
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


ALL RIGHT! BITSY'S ASLEEP. NOW I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT WITHOUT ANYBODY JUDGING ME.
12-3
www.kingfeatures.com
MAKING A LIST, CHECKING IT TWICE,..

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WANDA, DO YOU REALIZE YOU'VE BEEN A STAY-AT-HOME MOM FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS?
YEP. SINCE ZOE WAS BORN.
WOWWWW...
DON'T YOU MISS WORKING??
STAIN BUSTER

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HeRe's tHe THiNG. No TWO SPOiLeD BRAtS CAN Live UNDeR ONe RooF. It's eitHeR you OR Me.
So WHAt's it GoiNG to Be?
You CAN HAVe THe TitLe.
THAt's it? You'Re Not eveN GoiNG to CHALLeNGe Me? Too CHiCKeN to FiGHT?
!
THiNK twice BeFoRe you Hit A RocK.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're energetic, vital and friendly. You love to explore new ideas and new places. You like material success, but you have an inner desire for peace and tranquility. You're idealistic and humanitarian. Strong, intelligent people with conviction attract you. A significant change awaits you in the year ahead, perhaps as major as in 1997.

Birthdate of: Holly Marie Combs, actress; Brendan Fraser, actor; Julianne Moore, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Finally, you can go forward with plans about shared property and joint holdings. Up until now, things have been too crazy and delayed!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Delays and misunderstandings with partners and close friends seem to diminish now. You have a better understanding of what others want. You have a better understanding of what you want as well.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It hasn't been easy at work lately. Staff shortages, mixed-up communication and lost papers caused frustrations. This is over now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's been interesting with ex-lovers and old flames coming out of the woodwork. Now your life can start to get back on track again. (Whew.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You've seen a lot of relatives lately. Old family business needed to be rehashed. You've also been thinking about your past. Now it's time to swing your focus to the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Interruptions in communication, telephones, delays with mail, plus transportation problems and glitches have really dogged your steps! As of today, all this is a thing of the past. Life is back to normal (whatever that is).

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Crazy delays in financial matters made you cringe recently. Checks in the mail were late. All these delays will diminish now. Things will go back to their normal inefficient level.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): A variety of different things caused delays and interruptions to your daily schedule in the past six weeks. This will enormously lessen now. Things return to their former pace. (Hectic but manageable.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): In the past few months, quite a few people from your past suddenly popped up. It was practically old home week. Now you can move forward with confidence about your future plans.

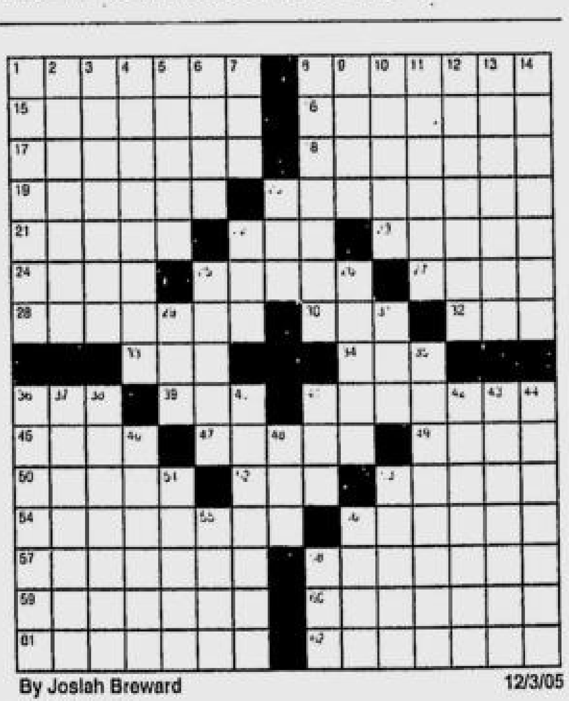
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Old friends and past acquaintances have certainly crossed your path lately. You value your traditional connections. Today the Moon is in your sign, and you feel strong!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): All in all, this is a pretty good day. Mercury finally goes direct today. This means your conversations with bosses and authority figures will be smoother in the future. Yay!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's been confusing dealing with authority figures lately. Much problems have cropped up. Starting today, these problems will fade. (Thankfully!)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Caspian's neighbor
8 Silo's purpose
15 Of an eye membrane
16 Teachers' statuses
17 Good luck characters
18 Forbearing
19 Modifies
20 Resound
21 Ladd or Lane
22 Bridle part
23 Grave risk
24 Invites
25 Ward off
27 Uninteresting
28 Trend upward
30 Water damage
32 Holy smoke!
33 Female swine
34 Naughty
36 Was endowed with
39 Woven snare
41 Wright and Brewer
45 Half the alphabet?
47 Throws down the gauntlet
49 Merchandise mover
50 Turns on a pivot
52 Permit to
53 Charming miss
54 Straphanger's grip
56 Whittled
57 Notre Dame location
58 Mail campaign expense
59 Hot under the collar
60 Whole number
61 Gain control over
62 Noblewoman



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
12/3/05

DOWN
1 Fleets of warships
2 Pragmatist
3 On the line
4 Permission documents
5 Saw wood in bed
6 Devours
7 Martino and Pacino
8 Heaven's gatekeeper
9 Brewed drinks
10 In the advantageous position
11 Made useless
12 Small carpet
13 Non-Jewish
14 Ms. Parsons
20 Actor Torn
22 Dancer Vereen
25 End widowhood
26 Popular piercing spots
29 Mil. captive
31 Black goo
35 Military runaway
36 Cannabis resin
37 Emory University city
38 Cicely Tyson movie
40 Some songs
41 Hanoi holiday
42 Rescue from the trash bin
43 Asserts before proof
44 Planters
46 Highway divider
48 Primary color
51 Disgrace
53 Moisten periodically
55 Washington bills
56 Ice-cream container
58 Apple seed

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	R	I	L	S	■	G	N	A	S	H	■	P	A	L
S	H	O	O	T	■	R	O	M	E	O	■	A	M	I
H	O	U	S	E	K	E	E	P	E	R	■	L	O	B
■	■	■	S	T	A	N	N	U	M	■	D	A	C	E
A	C	H	E	■	L	A	D	L	E	■	E	C	O	L
G	R	O	S	S	E	D	■	■	D	I	C	E	■	■
L	O	T	■	C	L	I	M	B	■	M	O	G	U	L
E	N	E	R	O	■	C	A	R	■	P	R	U	N	E
T	Y	L	E	R	■	R	O	U	S	E	■	A	W	E
■	■	P	E	N	N	■	■	S	T	I	R	R	E	R
E	H	O	S	■	O	M	A	H	A	■	E	D	D	Y
L	O	R	E	■	M	A	L	A	I	S	E	■	■	■
E	S	T	■	H	O	M	E	W	R	E	C	K	E	R
N	E	F	■	F	R	I	C	A	■	R	H	I	N	E
I	S	R	■	R	E	E	K	Y	■	B	O	N	G	O

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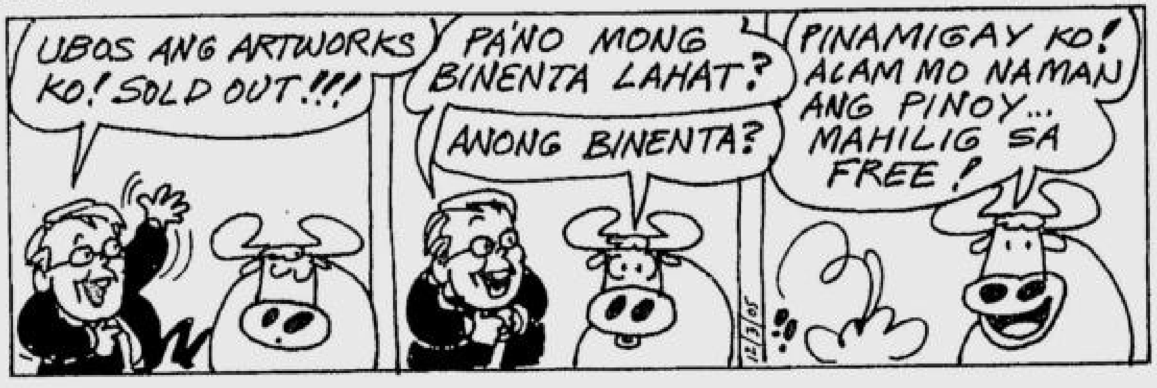
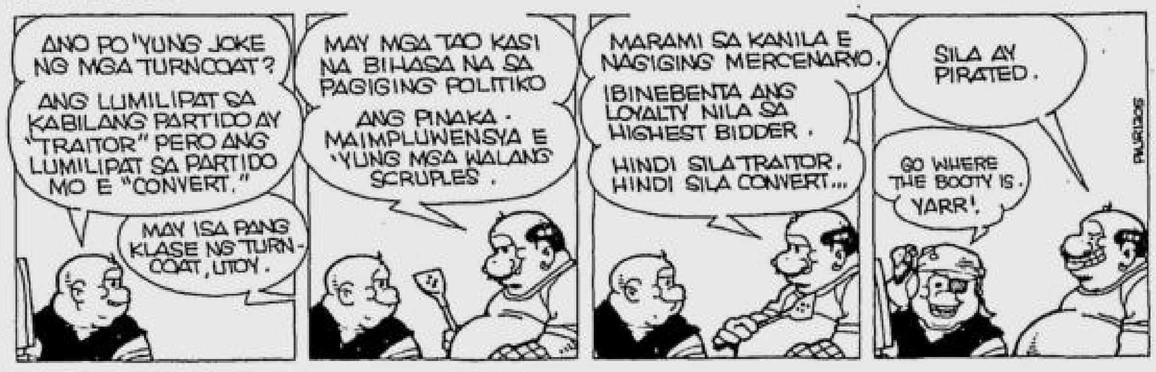
12/2/05

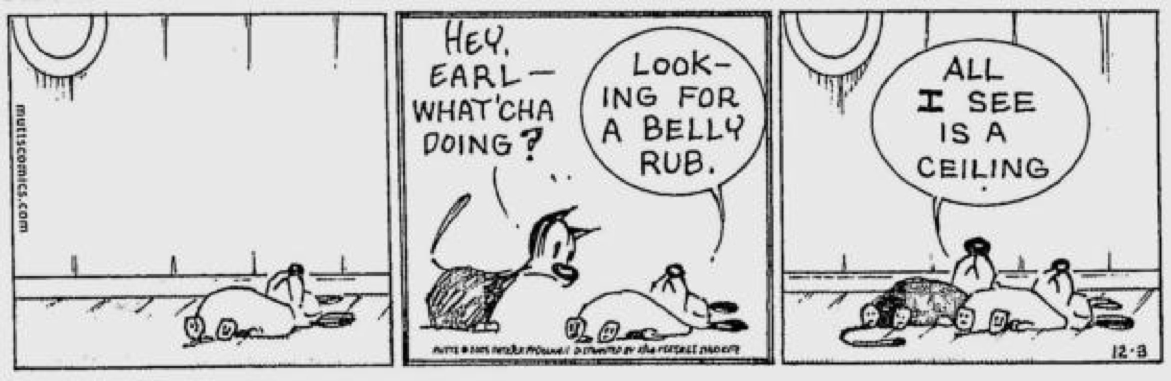
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


UBOS ANG ARTWORKS KO! SOLD OUT!!!
PA'NO MONG BINENTA LAHAT?
ANONG BINENTA?
PINAMIGAY KO! ALAM MO NAMAN ANG PINOY... MAHILIG SA FREE!
12/3/05

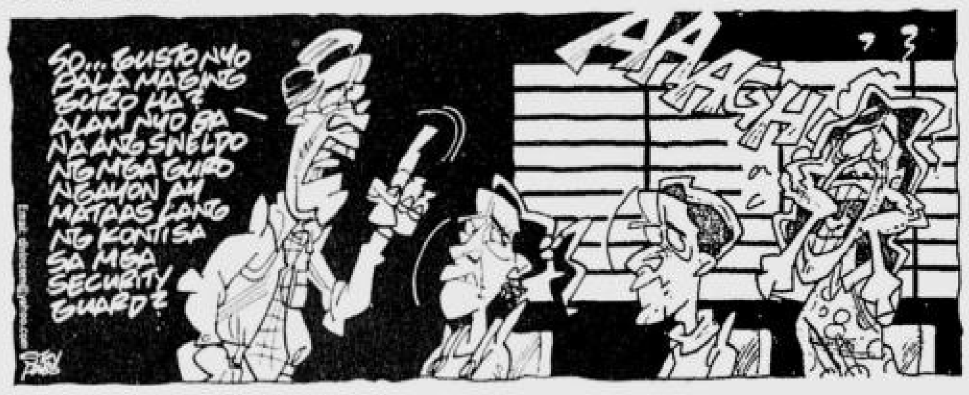
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO PO 'YUNG JOKE NG MGA TURNCOAT?
ANG LUMILIPAT SA KABILANG PARTIDO AY "TRAITOR" PERO ANG LUMILIPAT SA PARTIDO MO E "CONVERT."
MAY ISA PANG KLASE NG TURN-COAT, UTOY.
MAY MGA TAO KASI NA BIHASA NA SA PAGIGING POLITIKO
ANG PINAKA-MAIMPLUWENSYA E 'YUNG MGA WALANG SCRUPLES.
MARAMI SA KANILA E NAGIGING MERCENARYO.
IBINEBENTA ANG LOYALTY NILA SA HIGHEST BIDDER.
HINDI SILA TRAITOR. HINDI SILA CONVERT...
SILA AY PIRATED.
GO WHERE THE BOOTY IS. YARR!

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

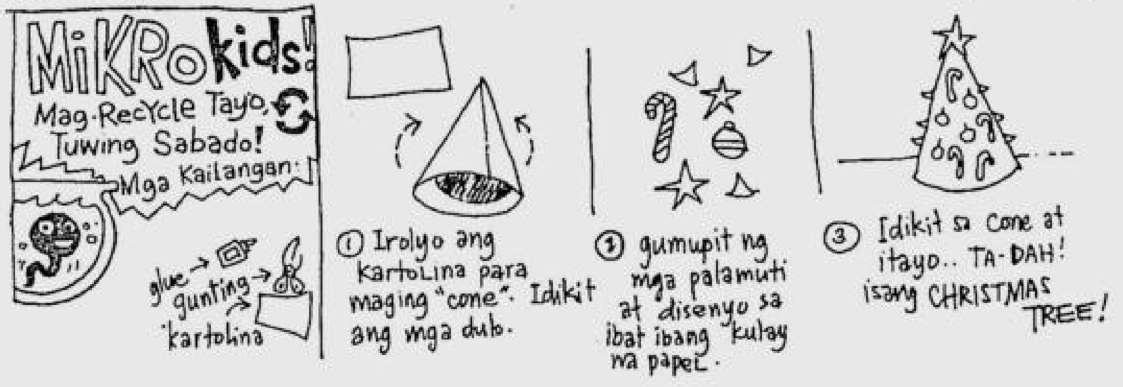

muttscomics.com
HEY, EARL—WHAT'CHA DOING?
LOOK-ING FOR A BELLY RUB.
ALL I SEE IS A CEILING
12-3

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

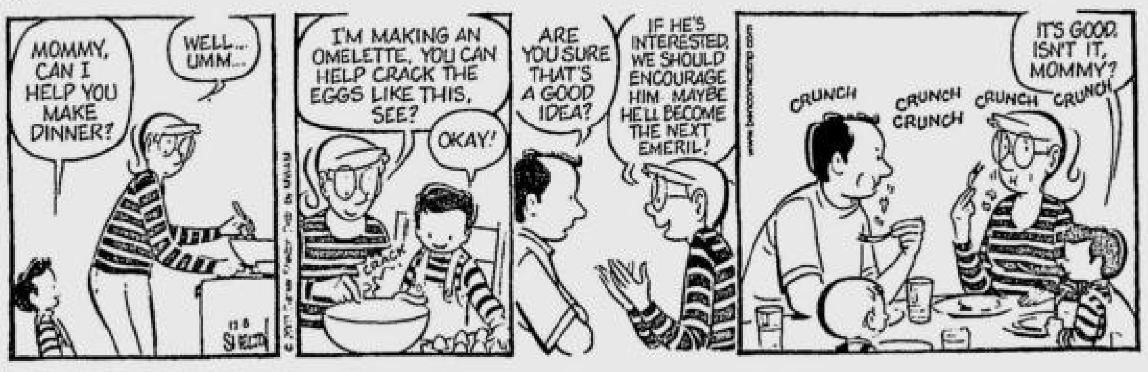

SO... GUSTO NYO PALA MAGING GURO HA? ALAM NYO BA NA ANG SWELDO NG MGA GURO NGAYON AY MATAAS LANG NG KONTI SA SA MGA SECURITY GUARD?
AAAGH!
? ?

THE REAL REASON WHY EMILY ROSE BECAME POSSESSED

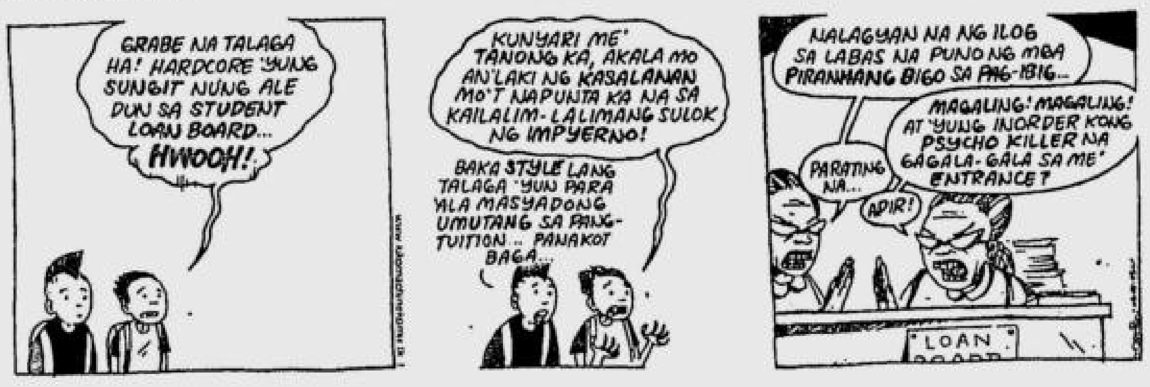
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo kids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
glue
gunting
kartolina
① Irolyo ang kartolina para maging "cone". Idikit ang mga dulo.
② gumupit ng mga palamuti at disenyo sa ibat ibang kulay na papel.
③ Idikit sa Cone at itayo.. TA-DAH! isang CHRISTMAS TREE!

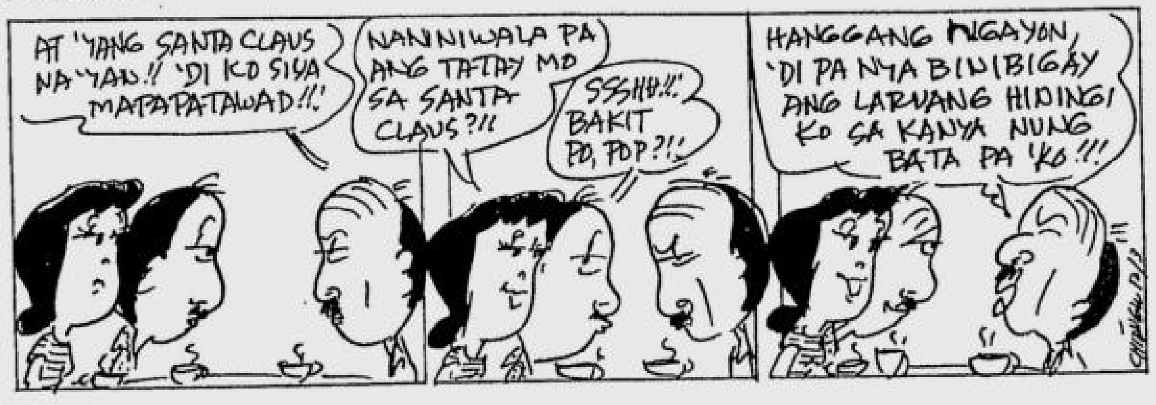
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


MOMMY, CAN I HELP YOU MAKE DINNER?
WELL... UMM...
I'M MAKING AN OMELETTE. YOU CAN HELP CRACK THE EGGS LIKE THIS, SEE?
OKAY!
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S A GOOD IDEA?
IF HE'S INTERESTED, WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE HIM. MAYBE HE'LL BECOME THE NEXT EMERIL!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH CRUNCH
CRUNCH CRUNCH
IT'S GOOD. ISN'T IT, MOMMY?

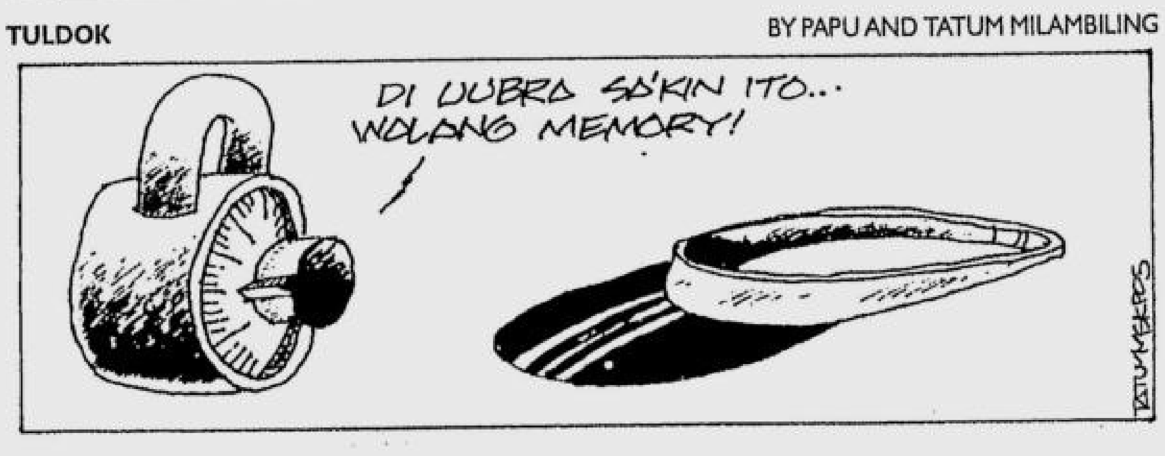
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE NA TALAGA HA! HARDCORE 'YUNG SUNGIT NUNG ALE DUN SA STUDENT LOAN BOARD... HWOOH!
KUNYARI ME' TANONG KA, AKALA MO AN'LAKI NG KASALANAN MO'T NAPUNTA KA NA SA KAILALIM-LALIMANG SULOK NG IMPYERNO!
BAKA STYLE LANG TALAGA 'YUN PARA WALA MASYADONG UMUTANG SA PANG-TUITION... PANAKOT BAGA...
NALAGYAN NA NG ILOG SA LABAS NA PUNO NG MGA PIRANHANG BIGO SA PAG-IBIG...
PARATING NA...
MAGALING! MAGALING! AT 'YUNG INORDER KONG PSYCHO KILLER NA GAGALA-GALA SA ME' ENTRANCE?
APIR!
LOAN BOARD

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AT 'YANG SANTA CLAUS NA 'YAN!! 'DI KO SIYA MAPAPATAWAD!!
NANINIWALA PA ANG TATAY MO SA SANTA CLAUS?!!
SSSHH!! BAKIT PO, POP?!!
HANGGANG NGAYON, 'DI PA NYA BINIBIGAY ANG LARUANG HININGI KO SA KANYA NUNG BATA PA 'KO!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI UUBRA SA'KIN ITO... WALANG MEMORY!
TATUMMBROS

ISABEL Oli in Fly eyewear

Sky's the limit

By David Milan
Photo by April Son

NEW EYEWEAR BRAND FLY EXEMPLIFIES A multi-faceted, flaunt-worthy eyewear that can be used for all occasions. It is fit for any specs-loving person who wants to be seen in eyewear showing as an instigator of style and proponent of individuality. Isabel Oli, boob-tube's newest muse was chosen to become its newest endorser. Fly high and get a load of these shades.

Fly eyewear stores are located on 50th Avenue in Alabang Town Center and Robinson's Galleria, Festival Mall, Robinson's Place in Angeles, Lipa and Sta. Rosa.

PERFECT moments with Pond's Angel Jacob

MAGANDANG Filipina author Ronnie Alejandro with Beng Reyes Ong

La Pinay

NEW-YORK BASED AUTHOR REYNALDO Alejandro recently launched a new book called "Magandang Filipina Beauty for Life." This 269-page coffeetable book is plushly illustrated with various subjects on the Pinay beauty. The book launch was underlined by a mini-fashion show directed by Robby Carmona and a performance by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra.

"Magandang Filipina Beauty for Life" is now available at bookstores nationwide.

Farmers Market

BIG ON FRESH!
BIG ON VALUE!

Stop for a visit.
We have so much to offer!

The Freshest Fish,
Meat, Fruits & Vegetables

Live Seafood flown in
daily from Roxas City

Mouthwatering delicacies
cooked Dampa-style

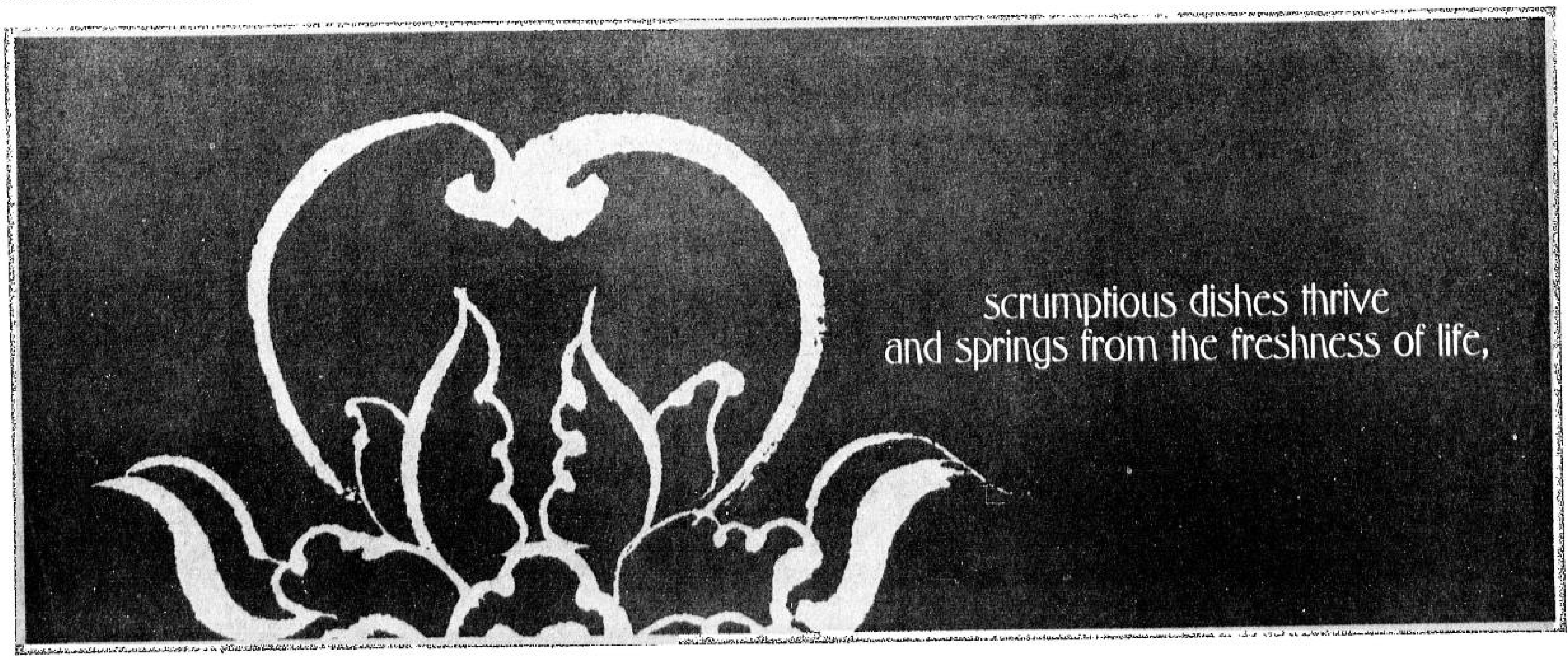
Center for Culinary Arts
Cooking School

Plus Pushcarts & Ramps,
Wide Aisles & Easy
Parking for your shopping
convenience

OPEN
24 HOURS

PLUS!
WATCH THE BELEN LIGHTING
TODAY, 5PM AT THE MCARTHUR AVE.
ENTRANCE OF FARMERS MARKET
WITH GUEST OF HONOR
SEN. MAR "MR. PALENGKE" ROXAS

Araneta Center


scrumptious dishes thrive
and springs from the freshness of life,

MusicMania

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

AS TEMPTING AS IT WAS to fall back on our typical after-hour routines, the onslaught of music events over the past few days has left little room for nocturnal lethargy. From the NU107 Rock Awards (still the undisputed grand daddy of all rock shows) back-to-back with the MTV Music Summit (where none other than MiG Ayesa of Rock Star:INXS led an all-star pack of Pinoy artists), it's been a week full of high-wattage performances that left us thirsty for more.

The controversy that has plagued the pioneering Rock Awards in previous years has not affected its popularity with thousands of angst-ridden youth waiting for this time of the year to cast their votes and watch their favorite artists perform. MTV Pilipinas and NU 107's persistence in pushing the envelope has spurred the Pinoy music scene to higher heights, giving us a diverse crop of new local artists like Drip, Orange and Lemons, Juan Pablo Dream, Hale, Radioactive Sago Project, Spongecola, Sugarfree and an even bigger following these last few years.

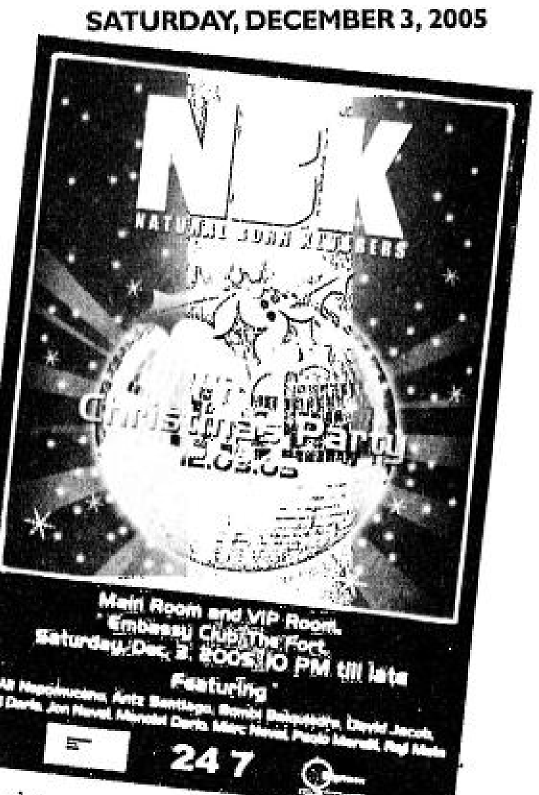
NBK Christmas Party @ Embassy Super Club, 10 p.m. tonight

It's a HO HO HOuse filled with Christmas cheer at NBK's Christmas Party! We're betting our last centavo that you'll have a blast with great music and company. At the NBK 8th Anniversary party at Embassy last October, even Manila's chi chi set and society pages' usual suspects were dancing in the main room rather than chilling out at the VIP room. "I missed this good crowd. NBK's events always attract an appreciative crowd. It's been some time since I've heard music that made me dance," commented a fan of the club scene during the party.

Capoeira and Zips dancers join DJs Ali Nepomuceno, Antz Santiago, Bombi Balquiedra, David Jacob, Jed Dario, Jon Naval, Manolet Dario, Marc Naval, Paolo Maralit, and Raji Mata as they spin a heady dose of house tracks along with live percussions and trumpets at the club's main room and VIP Room. Fun starts at 10 p.m.! Call 892-0689.

Most Sought After 7 Party @ Fiamma, 9:30 p.m. tonight

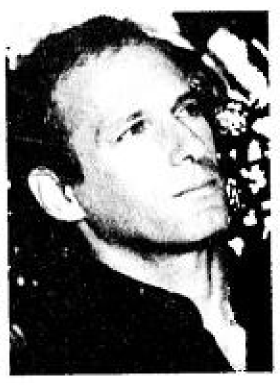
Is Fiamma just another restobar? We're looking forward to see how Pravda's Paolo Trillo and Il Ponticello's Vince Santos new baby will do in the food and fun department. The spanking new hotspot Fiamma [32 Jupiter St. cor. Astra St., Bel-Air, Makati] hosts another "Seven Party" tonight, this time in honor of seven creative forces that have made their mark in 2005: TV commercial director AF Benaza, fashion designer Puey Quiñones (a staple in Tim Yap's wardrobe), award-winning writer Pia Roxas, jewelry designer Ciara Marasigan, Shu Uemura makeup artist Jigs Mayuga, party promoter Ivan Zalameda, and Preview creative director Vince Uy. If not for the honorees, come see the interplay of the all-white modern design with the young and sophisticated set.


NBK
Christmas Party
12.03.05
Main Room and VIP Room,
Embassy Club The Fort.
Saturday, Dec. 3, 2005 10 PM till late
Featuring
Ali Nepomuceno, Antz Santiago, Bombi Balquiedra, David Jacob, Jed Dario, Jon Naval, Manolet Dario, Marc Naval, Paolo Maralit, Raji Mata
24 7

Essentials for a Night Out @ M Café, 9 p.m. tonight

Trailblazing electronic group Trip M shakes up the music scene with another uplifting set of cocktail mixes at M Café [Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4, Makati, phone: 757-3000]. They'll be joined tonight by jazz minstrel Mishka Adams and legendary rocker Ely Buendia. To cap off the night, 78 Orange's DJ Anthony Kierulf returns to the decks to spin a few wicked sets of soulful house, after a year's hiatus from the scene.

Michael Bolton: Live in Manila! @ Araneta Coliseum, Dec. 7



Remember those mammoth transpacific smashes of the late '80s and early '90s, like "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You" or "When A Man Loves Woman"? If these songs ring a bell, or if you want a glimpse of his famous fluffy, long '80s-style mane, then this should be welcome news: just like Santa Claus, Michael Bolton is coming to town! (And minus the infamous mullet, we might add.) The two-time Grammy winner brings his deep husky voice and lush blue-eyed ballads to the Araneta Coliseum on Wednesday. For tickets, call 911-5555.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Dec. 3, Saturday

Confessions of a Holy Stand-up with Tim Tayag & Al Manalo at Music Museum; NBK Christmas Party at Embassy Super Club; Cambio, Bagetsafonik, Analog, and Angulo at Saguijo; Ely Buendia, Trip M, Mishka Adams, and DJ Anthony Kierulf at M Café; Sino Sikat? at Rack's El Pueblo; Pump Saturdays with House DJs at Jill's; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Mild Seven's Most Sought After Seven Party at Fiamma; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Kevin Ruiz at Government; DJs Paolo Abaya & Kimosave at Absinth

Dec. 4, Sunday

Wally Gonzalez at Hard Rock Cafe; Sugar-free Desserts & Ice Cream at Peninsula Manila Lobby; Acoustic Night at Phi Bar, Metrowalk; Paskuhan: Filipino Heritage Food Festival at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental

Dec. 5, Monday

CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Soul Seduction at Absinth; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Acoustic Night at Temple; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Daisy Reyes at Phi Bar

Dec. 6, Tuesday

Panic with Alessandra Tinio at Zen; Ethan band at Temple; The Bloomfields at Dish; Willy Wanka's Music Factory with DJ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Tropical Depression at Phi Bar; Velvet with DJs JD & One Nyt Stand at Absinth; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Chiaro Scuro, Mighty, 10th Street, Best Before, Zero, and Attapulgite at Saguijo

Dec. 7, Wednesday

Mujeres Boutique Party at Ñ; Michael Bolton at Araneta Coliseum; Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze; '90s Night with DJ Mike Constantino at Absinth; Vixen Wednesdays with Superfly & BPM at Embassy Cuisine; Johnny Alegre AFFINITY at Mag:net Café Katipunan; Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy Club; Giniling Festival, Kamikazee, Maryzark, Join d Club, and Moyg at Saguijo; Southborder at Club Mwah!; Candles at Phi Bar; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar

Dec. 8, Thursday

Mild Seven's Most Superstar Seven Party at NBC Tent; Pupil, Menaya, Elytista, and Kiko Machine at Saguijo; Flux Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; RIDDM: Live Rock with Menaya at Absinth; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; Breathless Beats with DJ Brit at Government; Maegan Aguilar at Phi Bar; Ladies Night with DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple

Dec. 9, Friday

Sweetspot Night with Drip, Nyco Maca, Milagros Dancehall Collective, and Ampon at Saguijo; NBK's HouSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze; Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Kitchie Nadal & Barbie Almalbis at SM North EDSA; Martin Nievera at SM Megamall Cinema 9; Vibe Fridays with Steve Mills at Wasabi; MyHOUSE with Elian Habayeb at M Café; La Baila with Calypso DJs at Maestro; CouchLab DJs at Embassy Cuisine; People Power Fridays with Bam del Valle at Government; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; DJ Patch at Absinth; Nina at Bagaberde; Bliss 905 at Phi Bar; Jive Fridays at Temple

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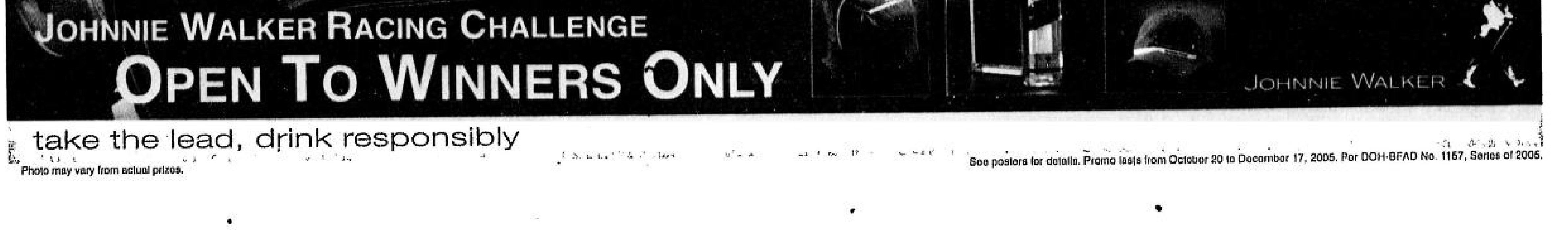
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